PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FEB-MAR-1931

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President:

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Shahab-ud-Din, Kt., K.B.

Deputy President:

Sardar Buta Singh.

Secretary:

Abnasha Singh, Esq., Bar.-at-Law.

Assistant Secretary.

Pandit Tej Kishan Kaul, B.A., LL.B., P.C.S.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

I.—*EX-OFFICIO* MEMBERS AND MINISTERS.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikander Hyat Khan, M.B.E., K.B., Revenue Member to Government, Punjab.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik., Bart., C.S.I., I.C.S., Finance Member to Government, Punjab.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh, Kt., Minister for Agriculture, Sikh, Landholders.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, Minister for Education, Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, M.A., Ph.D., Minister for Local Self-Government, North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

II.—OFFICIALS NOMINATED.

Anderson, Sir George, Kt., C.I.E., M.A., Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

Boyd, Mr. D.J., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Calvert, Mr. H., C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

Crawford, Mr. E. L., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads Branch).

Fazl Ilahi, Khan Sahib, Shaikh, P.C.S., Officiating Director of Information Bureau, Punjab, and Joint Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments.

Gill, Lt.-Colonel C. A., D.P.H., I.M.S., Director of Public Health, Punjab.

Hearn, Mr. J. W., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Revenue Department.

Marsden, Mr. P., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments.

Ogilvie, Mr. C. M. G., C.B.E., I.C.S., Home Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Puckle, Mr. F. H., C.I.E., I.C.S., Finance Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Sale, Mr. S. L., I.C.S., Legal Remembrancer and Secretary to Government, Punjab, Legislative Department.

Smith, Mr. J. B. G., C.I.E., Chief Engineer to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch).

Townsend, Mr. C. A. H., C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

III.—NON-OFFICIALS NOMINATED.

Ghani, Mr. M. A., Representative of Labouring Classes.

Janmeja Singh, Captain, Sardar Bahadur, Sardar, O.B.I., Representative of the Punjab Officers and Soldiers of His Majesty's Indian Forces.

Maya Das, Mr. Ernest, B.A., Representative of Indian Christians.

Rahim Bakhsh, Maulvi, Sir, K.C.I.E., Representative of General Interests.

Rattan Chand, Rai Bahadur Lala, O.B.E., Representative of General Interests.

Roberts, Mr. Owen, Representative of the European and Anglo-Indian communities.

Shave, Dr. (Mrs.), M. C., Representative of the European and Anglo-Indian communities.

Sheo Narain Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar, C.I.E., Representative of General Interests.

IV.—ELECTED.

Abdul Ghani, Shaikh, West Punjab Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.

Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana, Mian, (Muhammadan) Landholders.

Akbar Ali, Pir, B.A., LL.B., Ferozepore (Muhammadan), Rural.

Allah Dad Khan, Chaudhri, B.A., Ambala Division, North-East (Muhammadan), Rural.

Arjan Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B., Hoshiarpur and Kangra (Sikh), Rural.

Balbir Singh, Rao Bahadur Captain Rao, O.B.E., Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Bansi Lal, Chaudhri, Lahore City (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Bhagat Ram, Lala, Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Bishan Singh, Sardar, Sialkot-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural.

Buta Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B., Multan Division and Sheikhupura (Sikh), Rural.

Chetan Anand, Lala, B.A., LL.B., West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Chhotu Ram, Rao Bahadur Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., South-East, Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Chowdhry, Mr. Sajan Kumar, Hissar (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Din Muhammad, Mr. M.A., LL.B., East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.

Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh, B.A., LL.B., Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural.

Faqir Husain Khan, Chaudhri, Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural.

Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri, O.B.E., Gujrat East (Muhammadan), Urban.

Gopal Das, Lala, Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

IV.—ELECTED—CONTINUED.

Gurbachan Singh, Sardar, Jullundur (Sikh), Rural.

Habib Ullah, Khan Bahadur Sardar, Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural.

Haibat Khan Daha, Khan, Multan East (Muhammadan), Rural.

Imam-ud-Din, Maulvi, Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Muhammadan), Rural.

Jagdev Khan Kharal, Rai, Lyallpur North (Muhammadan), Rural.

Jaswant Singh, Guru, Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural.

Jawahar Singh Dhillon, Sardar, B.Sc. (Agr.), (Wales), M.S.P. (London), Lahore (Sikh), Rural.

Joti Parshad, Lala, B.A., LL.B., South-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Kesar Singh, Chaudhri, Amritsar-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Labh Singh, Mr. M.A., LL.B. (Cantab), Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Mamraj Singh Chohan, Kanwar, B.A., LL.B., Ambala-*cum*-Simla (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Manohar Lal, Mr. M.A. (Punjab University).

Mohan Lal, Rai Bahadur Lala, B.A., LL.B., North-East Twons (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Mohan Singh, Sardar, Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh), Rural.

Mohindar Singh, Sardar, Ludhiana (Sikh), Rural.

Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayad, Jhang (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri, Jullundur (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Amin Khan, Khan Bahadur, Malik, O.B.E., Attock (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Din, Malak, Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban.

Muhammad Eusoof, Khwaja, South-East Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.

Muhammad Hassan, Khan Sahib Mukhdum Shaikh, Muzaffargarh (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Khan Bahadur Nawab, Baluch Tumandar (Landholders).

Muhammad Raza Shah Gilani, Makhdumzada Sayad, Multan West (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh, Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban.

Muhammad Sarfaraz Ali Khan, Raja, Jhelum (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., Gurgaon-*cum*-Hissar (Muhammadan), Rural.

Mukand Lal, Puri, Mr., M.A., Punjab Industries.

Mukerji, Mr. P., Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association Commerce.

IV.—ELECTED—CONCLUDED.

Muzaffar Khan, Honorary Lieutenant Khan Sahib Malik, Mianwali (Muhammadan), Rural.

Narendra Nath, Diwan Bahadur Raja, M.A., Punjab Landholders (General).

Nathwa Singh, Chaudhri, Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Nazir Husain, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., Gujrat West (Muhammadan), Rural.

Nihal Chand, Aggarwal, Lala, East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Noor Ahmad Khan, Mian, Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural.

Nur Khan, Khan Sahib Rissaldar Bahadur, Rawalpindi (Muhammadan), Rural.

Nurullah, Mian, B. Com. (London), F.R.E.S., Lyallpur South (Muhammadan), Rural.

Pancham Chand, Thakur, Kangra (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Pandit, Mr. Nanak Chand, M.A., Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Raghbir Singh, Honorary Lieutenant Sardar, O.B.E., Amritsar (Sikh) Rural.

Ramji Das, Lala, Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Ram Sarup, Chaudhri, North-West Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Ram Singh, 2nd Lieut. Sardar, Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural.

Riasat Ali, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., Gujranwala (Muhammadan), Rural.

Sampuran Singh, Sardar, Lyallpur (Sikh), Rural.

Sewak Ram, Rai Bahadur, Lala, Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Shah Muhammad, Chaudhri, Sheikhupura (Muhammadan), Rural.

Ujjal Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar, M.A. (Sikh), Urban.

Zafrullah Khan, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 25th February 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following members were sworn in :—

Zafrulla Khan, Chaudhri (Sialkot, Muhammadan, Rural).

Ujjal Singh, Sardar Sahib, Sardar (Sikh Urban).

Narendra Nath, Dewan Bahadur Raja (Punjab Landholders, General).

Sampuran Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur, Sikh, Rural).

Puckle, Mr. F. H. (Financial Secretary).

Fazl Ilahi, Khan Sahib, Shaikh (Director, Information Bureau).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PUNJAB INDUSTRIAL BANK.

***1. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Punjab Industrial Bank in liquidation stopped business ;

(*b*) when its voluntary liquidation was started ;

(*c*) when its official liquidator was appointed and how far he has progressed with the work since then ;

(*d*) when the creditors of the Bank are likely to get their money or any instalments thereof ?

(*ii*) In how many months or years was the liquidation of the People's Bank completed in or about the year 1915 ?

(*iii*) What is the cause of extraordinary delay in the liquidation of the Punjab Industrial Bank and what action do Government propose to take to expedite it in the interests of the creditors ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*i*) (*a*) On the 3rd of May 1924.

(*b*) 3rd March 1925.

(*c*) The official liquidators were appointed on 4th March 1927. The total realizations up to 31st January 1931, amount to Rs. 56,887-3-8, while the estimated amount still to be realized is approximately Rs. 45,000.

[Hon. Capt. Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

(*d*) Government has no information on the subject.

(*ii*) The People's Bank of India, Limited, went into liquidation on the 17th November 1913, and was finally dissolved on the 19th June 1925.

(*iii*) The delay is attributed by the liquidators to the following facts :—

(*i*) Misfeasance proceedings against the Directors in respect of a loan of Rs. 3 lakhs which are still pending.

(*ii*) Difficulties in the way of taking legal action expeditiously against debtors and contributories who are residing out of British India. Government does not propose taking any special action for the present.

GRAND TRUNK ROAD BETWEEN GUJRAT AND DINGA.

*2. **Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that motor traffic on the grand trunk road between Gujrat and Dinga has considerably increased during the last two years ;

(*ii*) whether it is also a fact that the road is in a dilapidated condition, and that it is going from bad to worse on account of increasing traffic ;

(*iii*) when the road was last repaired ;

(*iv*) when Government propose to repair and to metal the road ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*i*) No. There is rarely any heavy traffic on it. It is not part of the grand trunk road.

(*ii*) No. It is an unmetalled road, in very good condition.

(*iii*) In 1929-30.

(*iv*) The District Board, Gujrat, do not propose to metal the road. They propose to repair it when it needs repair.

LOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL AT DHOORIA.

*3. **Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the total number of students reading in the primary and lower middle departments of the lower middle school at Dhooria, in the Gujrat district ;

(*ii*) what is the population of the village ;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that a large number of the students passing lower middle from that school have to discontinue their studies for want of an upper middle school within two miles' radius of the village ;

(*iv*) when do the Government propose to consider the question of raising the status of the school to the upper middle standard in the interests of the education of this and its surrounding villages ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon :

(*i*)	Lower Middle Department	46
	Primary Department	197

(*ii*) 1,596.

(*iii*) & (*iv*) The District Board School at Dhooria is an upper middle school, and thus the question does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

*4. **Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government has issued a circular letter to the officials concerned to keep in view the representation of all the three communities in the province while recommending appointments of new public prosecutors ;

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that ever since the post of a public prosecutor was sanctioned for the Rohtak district, its incumbent has been a Hindu gentleman at Rohtak ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that on several occasions additional public prosecutors have had to be appointed at Rohtak, and a *Muslim* was never appointed ;

(*d*) If so, whether Government intend to take any action to remove this grievance of the Muslims in future ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No.

(*b*) The post of public prosecutor at Rohtak was created with effect from 1st April 1929, and since then it has been held by a Hindu gentleman, who was first appointed on probation for 18 months and has recently been confirmed.

(*c*) On one occasion only was an additional public prosecutor appointed for 3 months at Rohtak and the legal practitioner selected for this purpose was a Hindu candidate who stood first on the list of approved candidates for the post of public prosecutor. There was no Muhammadan candidate on the approved list when the appointment was made. The name of a Muslim candidate has since been added to the list.

(*d*) Appointments to the post of additional or special public prosecutors are made solely to meet local requirements without regard to communal considerations which apply only to permanent appointments in the cadre of public prosecutors.

POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

*5. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state for the period commencing on the 1st January and ending on the 30th November 1930—

(*a*) the number of persons arrested for unlawful political activities ;

(*b*) the number of persons sent to jail, whether as a result of conviction, default in payment of fine or failure to furnish security in political cases ;

[R. B. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

(*c*) the number of ladies among (*i*) persons mentioned in (*a*) and (*ii*) persons mentioned in (*b*) ;

(*d*) the number of persons out of those referred to in (*b*) who were placed respectively in class A or class B ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :

(*a*) ..	..	..	..	7,189
(*b*) ..	..	..	..	5,638
(*c*) (*i*)	..	..	..	53
(*c*) (*ii*)	..	..	..	33
(*d*) ..	..	..	..	69 persons

were classed as A class prisoners and 129 as B class prisoners.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE.

*6. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the approximate amount of additional expenditure likely to be incurred in 1930-31 as a result of abnormal political conditions on—

(*a*) extra police ;

(*b*) extra judicial agency for trying cases ; and

(*c*) maintenance charges of political prisoners ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Rs. 5,01,727.

(*b*) Rs. 1,71,470.

(*c*) It is regretted that this information is not readily available as prisoners convicted of offences in which the element of sedition is involved are not kept separate from other convicts and any attempt to procure it would involve a disproportionate amount of labour. The average number of jail inmates in excess of the normal figure has been between 2,550 and 4,100 during the period 15th July 1930 and the 31st January 1931.

POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

*7. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the number of persons prosecuted for unlawful political activities who have been released on tendering apology whether before or after conviction, between the 1st January and 1st December 1930 ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : One thousand five hundred and sixteen persons were released on tendering apologies between the 1st of April and the 31st December 1930. Figures have not been collected for the whole year, but in the early part of it such releases were few or none, and the honourable member can take the figure given as approximately correct for the period embraced by his question.

PUNITIVE POLICE.

*8. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether there are any specific principles laid down by the Punjab Government to regulate the stationing of punitive police ;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether Government is prepared to lay a copy of these principles on the table of the House ;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, whether the Government has any objection to the formulation of such principles in consultation with the Standing Committee on Police ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) The honourable member is referred to sections 15, 15-A and 16 of the Police Act (V of 1861) and to Punjab Police Rules 4·10 to 4·16.

(*b*) A copy is laid on the table.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Extracts of Police Act (V of 1861).

Quartering of additional police in disturbed or dangerous districts.

15. (1) It shall be lawful for the Local Government, by proclamation to be notified in the official Gazette, and in such other manner as the Local Government shall direct, to declare that any area subject to its authority has been found to be in a disturbed or dangerous state, or that, from the conduct of the inhabitants of such area, or of any class or section of them it is expedient to increase the number of police.

(2) It shall thereupon be lawful for the Inspector-General of Police or other officer authorized by the Local Government in this behalf, with the sanction of the Local Government, to employ any police-force in addition to the ordinary fixed complement to be quartered in the area specified in such proclamation as aforesaid.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (5) of this section, the cost of such additional police-force shall be borne by the inhabitants of such area described in the proclamation.

(4) The Magistrate of the district, after such enquiry as he may deem necessary, shall apportion such cost among the inhabitants who are, as aforesaid, liable to bear the same and who shall not have been exempted under the next succeeding sub-section. Such apportionment shall be made according to the Magistrate's judgment of the respective means within such area of such inhabitants.

(5) It shall be lawful for the Local Government by order, to exempt any persons or class or section of such inhabitants from liability to bear any portion of such cost.

(6) Every proclamation issued under sub-section (*i*) of this section shall state the period for which it is to remain in force, but it may be withdrawn at any time or continued from time to time for a further period or periods as the Local Government may in each case think fit to direct.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "inhabitants" shall include persons who themselves or by their agents or servants occupy or hold land or other immoveable property within such area, and landlords who themselves or by their agents or servants collect rents direct from *raiyats* or occupiers in such area, notwithstanding that they do not actually reside therein.

Awarding compensation to sufferers from misconduct of inhabitants or persons interested in land.

15-A. (1) If, in any area, in regard to which any proclamation notified under the last preceding section is in force death or grievous hurt or loss of, or damage to, property has been caused by or has ensued from the misconduct of the inhabitants of such area or any class or section of them, it shall be lawful for any person, being an inhabitant of such area, who claims to have suffered injury from such misconduct to make, within one month from the date of the injury or such shorter period as may be prescribed, an application for compensation to the Magistrate of the district or of the sub-division of a district within which such area is situated.

[Hon'ble Sir Henry Craik.]

(2) It shall thereupon be lawful for the Magistrate of the district, with the sanction of the Local Government after such enquiry as he may deem necessary, and whether any additional police-force has or has not been quartered in such area under the last preceding section to—

(a) declare the persons to whom injury has been caused by or has ensued from such misconduct;

(b) fix the amount of compensation to be paid to such persons and the manner in which it is to be distributed among them; and

(c) assess the proportion in which the same shall be paid by the inhabitants of such area other than the applicant who shall not have been exempted from liability to pay under the next succeeding sub-section:

Provided that the Magistrate shall not make any declaration or assessment under this sub-section, unless he is of opinion that such injury as aforesaid has arisen from a riot or unlawful assembly within such area, and that the person who suffered the injury was himself free from blame in respect of the occurrences which led to such injury.

(3) It shall be lawful for the Local Government by order to exempt any persons or class or section of such inhabitants from liability to pay any portion of such compensation.

(4) Every declaration or assessment made or order passed by the Magistrate of the district under sub-section (2) shall be subject to revision by (3) (the Commissioner of the Division or) the Local Government, but save as aforesaid shall be final.

(5) No civil suit shall be maintainable in respect of any injury for which compensation has been awarded under this section.

(6) *Explanation.*—In this section the word "inhabitants" shall have the meaning as in the last preceding section.

Recovery of moneys payable under sections 13, 14, 15 and 15-A, and disposal of same when recovered.

16. (1) All moneys payable under sections 13, 14, 15 and 15-A shall be recoverable by the Magistrate of the district in the manner provided by sections 386 and 387 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, for the recovery of fines, or by suit in any competent Court.

(2) All moneys paid or recovered under sections 13, 14 and 15 shall be credited to a fund to be called "The General Police Fund," and shall be applied to the maintenance of the police-force under such orders as the Local Government shall pass.

(3) All moneys paid or recovered under section 15-A shall be paid by the Magistrate of the district to the persons to whom and in the proportions in which the same are payable under that section.

Extracts from the Punjab Police Rules.

ADDITIONAL POLICE, QUARTERED IN DISTURBED OR DANGEROUS AREAS.

4·10. Section 15 of the Police Act, 1861, regulate the quartering of police in disturbed or dangerous tracts. The orders contained in Rule 4·1 (2) and (3) apply *pari-passu* to them.

Application for the location of additional police in disturbed or dangerous areas.

4·11. Applications for the location of such police shall be made in form 4·11.

The Superintendent making the application shall see that all the information required by the form is filled in and shall submit it to the Inspector-General through (1) the District Magistrate, (2) the Commissioner and (3) the Deputy Inspector-General, for the orders of Government.

4·12. (1) Applications for the location of such police shall be accompanied by—

(a) the proposed assessment of the cost of the punitive police.

(b) an abstract translation of the Tahsildar's opinion in regard to the ability of the inhabitants to bear the charge.

(2) Full reasons shall be given establishing either the necessity for, or the extreme desirability of, the location of the additional post.

Action to be taken on the location of an additional police post being sanctioned.

4·13. When a notification appears in the *Punjab Gazette* ordering the location of an additional police post in a disturbed or dangerous area, the Superintendent concerned shall, on receipt of such Gazette, take immediate measures for the establishment of such post, and shall report to the magistrate of the district the date on which it is established.

4·14. (1) The Superintendent shall, when necessary in consultation with the District Magistrate, frame rules for the guidance of the additional police, with special reference to the object for which it is located and shall define the local area of the post.

Rules for the guidance of additional police.

(2) An additional police post shall be considered an outpost subordinate to the police station, in the jurisdiction of which it is situated.

4·15. (1) Recommendations for the continuance of an additional police post for a further period shall be submitted in form 4·15 (1) in sufficient time to admit of sanction being received before the expiration of the original period.

Continuance of an additional police post.

(2) Full reasons for the continuance of the post shall be given and a note of all crime committed within the jurisdiction since established shall be included.

4.16. Section 16 of the Police Act, 1861, regulates the recovery of moneys payable on account of additional police.

Punitive Police.

***9. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(a) whether before punitive police is stationed at a place the inhabitants of that place are furnished with a statement of the grounds on which it is proposed to station the punitive police-force there;

(b) whether the inhabitants affected are afforded any opportunity to show cause why punitive police should not be stationed in their village or town;

(c) whether any agency, official or unofficial, other than the police, is consulted by the district authorities before a proposal for a punitive police is submitted to the Government;

(d) whether any appeal to any authority is allowed against the proposal for a punitive police post or against the charges thereon whether in respect of amount, methods of assessment, methods of realisation or exemption?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) No.

(b) There is nothing to prevent them from so doing and in practice such representations are frequently received and considered.

(c) The views of the District Magistrate and the Commissioner of the Division are required before a proposal for the imposition of punitive police is submitted to Government in addition to those of the Superintendents of Police and the Deputy Inspector-General of the Range.

(d) The honourable member is referred to section 15 of the Police Act.

Punitive Police, Sisana.

***10. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(a) whether a proposal for the stationing of punitive police at village Sisana in the Rohtak district has been submitted to the Government;

[R. B. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

(*b*) the population of Sisana ;

(*c*) the number of thefts, burglaries, robberies or dacoities which took place in this village in 1928, 1929 and 1930, respectively ;

(*d*) the number of offences under sections 302, 304, 307, 326, 325 or 324 of the Indian Penal Code which took place in Sisana village in 1928, 1929 and 1930, respectively ;

(*e*) whether the annual number of offences mentioned in (*c*) or (*d*) is in any way abnormal for a village of the size of Sisana ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No.

(*b*) 1,918 males, 1,560 females.

(*c*) Statement " A " is laid on the table.

(*d*) Statement " B " is laid on the table.

(*e*) The annual number of offences mentioned in Statements " A " and " B", combined with seven other offences in three years comprising mischief, receiving stolen property, riot with hurt to public servants, assault on public servants, kidnapping, the illegal possession of arms, and the harbouring of dacoits indicate that crime in the village is abnormal.

STATEMENT A.

	1928.	1929.	1930.
Theft	1	..	..
Burglary	7	3	4
Robbery	..	..	1
Dacoity	..	..	2
Total	8	3	7

STATEMENT B.

	1928	1929.	1930.
Under section 302, Indian Penal Code ..	..	..	..
" 304, Indian Penal Code	..	..	1
" 307, Indian Penal Code	1	..	..
" 326, Indian Penal Code	..	..	..
" 324-325, Indian Penal Code ..	..	1	2
Total ..	1	1	3

PUNITIVE POLICE, SISANA.

***11. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the safedposh of village Sisana, in the Rohtak district, belongs to Sisana and the zaildar of the circle belongs to Silana ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the safedposh and the zaildar were ranged against each other in the last district board elections and there are two factions in the circle since then ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a few cases of alleged corruption were brought by certain individuals against the local sub-inspector of police and the zaildar and some of the prosecution witnesses belonged to Sisana ;

(*d*) whether the inhabitants of Sisana were informed of the grounds on which it was proposed to impose a punitive post on them ;

(*e*) whether the inhabitants of Sisana were given an opportunity to refute the grounds on which it is proposed to penalise them ;

(*f*) what is the period for which the local authorities propose to station the punitive police at Sisana and what is the monthly cost on the punitive force ;

(*g*) whether Government is prepared to institute further and detailed enquiry before according sanction to the proposal ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The inhabitants of Sisana are aware of the grounds on which it is proposed to impose additional police.

(*e*) Local officers are always prepared to listen to representations by inhabitants when the material for an additional police proposal is being collected and is under consideration.

(*f*) Government has no information on the subject as any proposals there may be, are still under the consideration of the district authorities.

(*g*) The proposals have to pass the scrutiny of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner before they are submitted to Government and Government always undertakes such enquiries as may be necessary to satisfy itself of the necessity of additional police proposals.

ASSESSMENT OF LAND REVENUE IN DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

***12. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) the rates of various agricultural products, on the basis of which land revenue was assessed in the last settlement of Dera Ghazi Khan district ;

(*b*) the proportion of irrigated area to the total area of an average holding taken into consideration in fixing the existing rate of land revenue demand ;

(*c*) the proportion of irrigated area to the total area of an average holding during the last five years ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The following statement gives the commutation prices for the principal crops (in annas per maund) adopted at the 2nd revised settlement (1916—1920) of the Dera Ghazi Khan district :—

Tahsil.	Rice.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Cotton.	Wheat.	Gram.	Ussun.	Peas.	Tobacco.
Sanghar	23	26	30	75	34	27	34	21	64
Dera Ghazi Khan ..	25	28	31	85	36	30	38	22	84
Jampur	24	27	29	85	36	30	37	21	80
Rajanpur	22	27	29	77	37	29	36	21	80

(*b*) and (*c*) Information is not readily available. A reference has been made to the local officers, and a reply is awaited. Information will be communicated to the honourable member as soon as it is ready.

SANGHAR HILL TORRENTS.

*13. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly lay on the table the report, if any, made by Mr. Claxton, Executive Engineer, with regard to the controlling and using for agricultural purposes of the water of the Sanghar hill torrents in Dera Ghazi Khan district ?

(*b*) Has the Government taken any action on the report, and if not does it propose to take any steps, and if so, when ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No separate report on the Sanghar Hill torrent has been submitted by Mr. Claxton. His remarks about this torrent are included in his general report on the principal hill torrents of the Dera Ghazi Khan district. This is a lengthy report, with numerous plans and drawings, all of which would have to be printed at considerable expense which Government is not prepared to incur at present. The honourable member is, however, welcome to see the report in the office of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Branch, whenever he likes.

(*b*) The report is still under consideration.

ZAMINDARS OF DERA GHAZI KHAN.

*14. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Are Government aware of the extremely precarious condition of the zamindars of Dera Ghazi Khan, and if so, what steps does Government propose to take to improve their condition ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Dera Ghazi Khan is an insecure district dependent as it is largely on the variable Indus floods and a small rainfall and for that reason was assessed low. The

district is undoubtedly poor and the fall in prices has there, as elsewhere, involved the agriculturists in some difficulty. But the last two harvests have been rather above the average, and Government is now considering the report of Mr. Claxton who was deputed to examine and report whether any better use can be made of the hill torrents.

CONGRESS FLAG IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KASUR.

***15. Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether Lala Bodh Raj, Vice-President, municipal committee, Kasur, had ordered the hoisting of the Congress flag on the Town Hall without the sanction of the committee;

(*b*) whether the municipal committee, Kasur, unanimously passed a vote of censure against him on the above account;

(*c*) whether the municipal committee, Kasur, passed a resolution requesting the Local Government to take action against him in this connection;

(*d*) whether Malik Lal Khan, Vice-President, municipal committee, Gujranwala, was removed from membership for a similar conduct;

(*e*) If so, what action has been taken against Lala Bodh Raj so far?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: I regret that the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

LALA BODH RAJ, MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, KASUR.

***16. Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether any reports were submitted to the Local Government by the President, municipal committee, Kasur, against the illegalities committed by Lala Bodh Raj, municipal commissioner;

(*b*) If so, whether any action has been taken on those reports?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: (*a*) The late President, municipal committee, Kasur, wrote a letter to the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, in which he alleged that certain illegalities had been committed by Lala Bodh Raj, municipal commissioner.

(*b*) An enquiry is being made into the truth of the allegations.

CROPS IN AMBALA DISTRICT AND REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE.

***17. Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that practically the whole of the Ambala district is a *barani* district, and that crops are absolutely uncertain in this district;

[Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.]

(b) whether the Government is aware that in the past five years it has been a prey to hailstorms, famine and locusts;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the Ambala district board passed a resolution on 5th December, 1930, requesting the Government to give some help to this district because of the unprecedented fall in the prices of agricultural products;

(d) how much remission of land revenue or *abiana* has been given to the Ambala district in the *kharif* 1930;

(e) if the answer to (d) be in the negative, the reasons for not extending any help to this district?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (a) Yes, but it is a sub-montane district ordinarily receiving a more satisfactory rainfall than many districts in the province.

(b) To locusts only in *kharif* 1929.

(c) Yes.

(d) The following amounts were remitted in *kharif* 1930:—

	Rs.	Rs.
Abiana, ordinary	474	1,913
Abiana, special	1,439	
Land revenue		.. 6,202

In addition a sum of Rs. 16,574 of land revenue was suspended in *kharif* 1930.

(e) Does not arise.

BRIDGES ACROSS DRAIN NO. 6, ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***18. Chaudhri Ram Sarup:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(a) the height (as measured from the bed of the drain to the roof of the bridge) of bridges constructed across drain No. 6 between (i) villages Khidwali and Jindran, and (ii) villages Jindran and Sundar Pur, in the Rohtak district;

(b) what is the gradient of ascent and descent on either side of these bridges;

(c) whether it is a fact that three or four bullocks yoked to carts were killed on various occasions as a result of accidents due to the steepness of gradient;

(d) the distance between the points where the gradient commences and where it ends?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: (a) (i) 10 feet.

(a) (ii) 11 feet.

(b) One in twenty, as approved by the Local Government for III Class Roads.

(*c*) Government has no information.

(*d*) Khidwali and Jindran Bridge :—

	Feet.
Left Ramp	176
Right Ramp	186

Jindran and Sundarpur Bridge :—

	Feet.
Left Ramp	153
Right Ramp	153

REMISSIONS TO ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***19. Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the amount of remission granted to the Rohtak district under the recent orders in respect of cotton and rice?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The total amounts of remissions granted are :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Cotton	21,000	7	4
Rice	528	9	7
Total	21,529	0	11

AMRITSAR MEDICAL SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

***20. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the yearly tests of the students of the Medical School, Amritsar, are conducted by the School Professors, a majority of whom, including the Principal, are non-Muslims;

(*b*) if so, whether Government have under consideration any proposal to take in hand the conduct of yearly tests of students by agencies other than the school staff;

(*c*) if not, what is the procedure adopted in the conduct of the tests;

(*d*) what are the rules regarding appointment of supervisors during the conduct of these tests;

(*e*) whether one and the same supervisor is appointed every year or different supervisors are nominted every year?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) No. The yearly tests are conducted by the Punjab State Medical Faculty.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) By "procedure adopted in the conduct of the tests" it is presumed that the honourable member refers to the examination rules, a copy of which is laid on the table[1].

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[1]Copy kept in the Library.

[Hon'ble Malik Firoz Khan Noon.]

(*d*) There are no rules for the appointment of supervisors. The practice is for the Punjab State Medical Faculty to request the Principal to appoint a member of his staff.

(*e*) The Lecturer on Chemistry and Physics has so far been appointed as supervisor at each examination, as no other member of the staff can conveniently be spared.

MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR—MANAGEMENT.

***21. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Medical School at Amritsar is managed by the Medical Board Faculty, Punjab, and the students are treated as faculty students;

(*b*) if so, whether each point relating to the school discipline is referred to the Faculty for decision; if not, what are the lines on which such matters of school discipline are dealt with?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) It is not a fact that the Medical School at Amritsar is managed by the Punjab State Medical Faculty, which body is probably meant by the honourable member when he refers to the "Medical Board Faculty, Punjab."

(*b*) The discipline of the school is in the hands of the Principal, as explained in section XXVI of the current prospectus. A copy of the prospectus is laid on the table.[1]

RASUL BAKHSH, STUDENT, MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR.

***22. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that during the examination held in the Amritsar Medical School in April 1930, one Rasul Bakhsh, an *ex*-examinee student of the 2nd year class of the school, was suspected by the supervisor to communicate with an unknown examinee;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that his case was reported by the Principal to the Faculty and the Faculty debarred him to appear in any examination for three years? If so, will the Government please state—

(*i*) whether such a punishment was inflicted on an *ex*-examinee by the Faculty under any rules in force at the time, and if so, whether a copy of those rules will be laid on the table;

(*ii*) whether the boy's father appealed to Government and the Government did not interfere in the matter and referred it again to the Faculty; if so, with what result? Was the Board divided in opinion?

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[1] Copy kept in the Library.

(*iii*) whether there is any appellate authority against the decision of the Faculty or the decision of the Faculty is considered as final authority ;

(*iv*) whether Government have any intention to reconsider their decision ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. (*i*) There are no rules specifically dealing with such an offence.

(*ii*) & (*iii*) From a decision of the Faculty there is no appeal to the Local Government. A representation was made to Government. The Government after, considering all the facts, decided to forward the petition to the Faculty for consideration. The Faculty, however, on reconsidering the matter, decided by a majority of 12 to 1 that the penalty should not be reduced.

(*iv*) No.

RASUL BAKHSH, STUDENT, MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR.

***23. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state —

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the Universities other than the Punjab students found copying in the examination hall are debarred for one year only at the most ;

(*b*) If so, what are the circumstances which led the Punjab Medical Board Faculty to give so severe and hard a punishment to Rasul Bakhsh referred to in starred question No. 22 (above) ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The required information is being obtained from Universities of other provinces and will be communicated after their replies have been received.

SUICIDES IN MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR.

***24. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that during the last two years two Muhammadan students of the Medical School, Amritsar, committed suicide, one Khadim Hussain in the year 1929 and the other Mukhtar Hussain in the year 1930 ;

(*b*) if so, what were the circumstances which led these students to commit suicide ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (1) Khadim Hussain did not return from leave from which he was due back on the 29th October, 1929 and a letter was received by the school authorities from his brother saying that Khadim Hussain had run away from home and had left with him a note to the effect that owing to his failure in the examination he had decided to commit suicide. The matter was reported to the Superintendent Police, Gurdaspur, the district to which he belonged and the latter soon after reported that the student had committed suicide.

[Hon'ble Malik Firoz Khan Noon.]

(2) Mukhtar Hussain committed suicide at Amritsar on 1st December 1930. Careful investigation by the police failed to elicit the reasons for the suicide.

MUSLIMS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

***25. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the Superintending Engineer's office of the Canals Division at Multan, only one clerk out of 12 is a Muhammadan;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that in the Mailsi Main Line Division and Chitwala Division all the Executive Engineers and Sub-Divisional Officers are Hindus and in the clerical and subordinate staff of the offices about two-thirds are Hindus;

(*c*) if the reply to the above is in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that Muslims are given their proportionate share in those appointments?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) In the Superintending Engineer's office, Mailsi Canal Circle, one clerk out of eight is a Muhammadan.

(*b*) *Mailsi Main Line Division.*—The Executive Engineer is not a Hindu, but the Sub-Divisional Officers are. One of the Sub-Divisional Officers will be replaced by a Muslim in April 1931. There are 5 Muslim clerks and 1 Muslim subordinate against 11 and 14 non-Muslims, respectively.

Officers, Chitwala Division.—The Executive Engineer and Sub-Divisional Officers are all non-Muslims. There are 4 Muslim clerks and 5 Muslim subordinates against 11 and 15 non-Muslims, respectively.

(*c*) With regard to services other than the Indian Service of Engineers, Local Government are now recruiting on a basis of 50 per cent. Muslims and 50 per cent. non-Muslims as far as possible having regard to necessary qualifications.

MUSLIM ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATES.

***26. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani:** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(*i*) the date from which the post of Additional District Magistrate was created in each district of the province;

(*ii*) whether since the date of the creation of the post of Additional District Magistrate, any Muhammadan officer had the chance of appointment to this job in any of the districts of the Multan division? If not, why?

Mr. D. J. Boyd: (*i*) The post of Additional District Magistrate was created before 1914 in the districts of Lahore, Amritsar, Gujranwala and Rawalpindi. It was created in 1927 in the districts of Montgomery, Shahpur

and Multan. In 1929 Additional District Magistrates were appointed in the districts of Ferozepore, Hoshiarpur, Lyallpur, Gurdaspur and Sheikhupura.

(*ii*) No, because there was no particular reason for paying regard to communal considerations.

ENGLISH TEACHERS IN BOARD ANGLO-VERNACULAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***27. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Rawalpindi division—

(*a*) the number of new appointments of English teachers made in Board Anglo-vernacular secondary schools by the present Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, during the period from 1st June, 1929 to 31st December, 1930;

(*b*) the number of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims among these newly appointed teachers;

(*c*) how many of the new teachers belonged to districts outside the Rawalpindi division?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Seven;

(*b*) Hindus 2, Sikh 1, Muslims 4;

(*c*) One.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT *re* GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

***28. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(*a*) whether the consolidated statement showing the proportion of various classes in Government service up to the 1st January 1931 is yet ready;

(*b*) if not, whether he intends to expedite its publication so as to enable every member of the Council to have a copy of this statement during the course of the budget session?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Does not arise.

HOLIDAYS IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS.

***29. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state the reasons, if any, for the lists of holidays observed in civil and criminal courts being slightly different?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The work of the civil courts is not of such immediate urgency as that of the criminal courts, and it is possible for civil courts to go further in meeting the convenience of suitors in connection with religious observances.

INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE ON SALARIES.

*30. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) the total expenditure on General Administration in 1920-21 and 1929-30, respectively;

(*b*) the net increase which has occurred in the expenditure on salaries between 1920-21 and 1929-30?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) The total expenditure on General Administration during 1920-21 and 1929-30 was as follows:—

	Expenditure in 1920-21.	*Expenditure in* 1929-30.
	Rs.	Rs.
Departments included under General Administration in 1920-21	88,01,901	96,65,952
Departments included under General Administration since 1920-21	8,80,508	14,71,673
Total ..	96,82,409	1,11,37,625

(*b*) The net increase in the expenditure on salaries between 1920-21 and 1929-30 is as follows:—

	Expenditure in 1920-21.	*Expenditure in* 1929-30.
	Rs.	Rs.
Salaries of the:—		
Departments included under General Administration in 1920-21	53,12,458	72,99,239
Departments included under General Administration since 1920-21	1,82,546	3,42,482
Total ..	54,95,004	76,41,721
Net increase ..	21,46,717	..

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TAQAVI TO ZAMINDARS OF SIRSA.

1. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how much *taqavi* was distributed among the zamindars of the Sirsa tahsil about the time of the present *kharif* sowing ?

(*b*) how much of it went to the Muslim zamindars and how much to the Hindu and Sikh zamindars ?

(*c*) did the Muslim zamindars make a representation, at first to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Sirsa, and then to the Commissioner, Ambala Division, complaining against the inequitable distribution ?

(*d*) did either of those officers make an enquiry into the complaint ? If so, with what result ;

(*e*) if the complaint was found to be just, what action has the Commissioner taken against the officer responsible for this distribution ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Rs. 37,750.

(*b*) Rs. 20,880 were advanced to Muslim zamindars and Rs. 9,990 and Rs. 6,880 to Sikh and Hindu zamindars, respectively.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes. The complaints were not justified.

(*e*) Does not arise.

MURDERS AND DACOITIES IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

2. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many murders and dacoities have been committed in the Rohtak district during the past ten months ?

(*b*) how many of these are supposed to have been committed by the notorious Harphal Singh, an absconder ?

(*c*) how many of these remained untraced ?

(*d*) whether it is a fact that some at least of these murders and dacoities were not committed by Harphal Singh, and that by this supposition the real culprits in them have escaped ?

(*e*) for how long has the present Superintendent of Police been in this district ?

(*f*) whether the Government is aware that when Hayat Ali Khan and his servant were recently shot dead near Gongana, a Jat village in the Rohtak district, the Superintendent of Police was in camp at a distance of some eight miles from the scene of occurrence ?

(*g*) did the Superintendent of Police go to the spot to see things for himself ?

(*h*) whether Government have under consideration the question of transferring the Superintendent of Police from the district ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Thirty-two murders and 43 dacoities.

(*b*) Government has no positive information.

(*c*) It is as yet too early to say if any case will remain untraced.

(*d*) Harphal Singh is not suspected in all the cases. All cases have been or are being investigated on their merits.

(*e*) Since 16th April 1926 with intervals of 4 months' leave in 1928 and 3 months in 1930.

(*f*) No. The Superintendent of Police was at headquarters.

(*g*) Yes, immediately he received information.

(*h*) No.

THEFT AND HOUSE-BREAKING IN AMBALA CITY.

3. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many cases of theft and house-breaking have occurred in Ambala city, from the beginning of October 1929 to the end of November 1930 ?

(*b*) in how many of these the victims were officials ?

(*c*) in how many of these cases was the stolen property recovered and the culprits traced ?

(*d*) what is the reason for failure to recover the property or trace the culprits in almost all these cases ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Forty-two theft and 78 house-breaking cases.

(*b*) Eight theft and 12 house-breaking cases.

(*c*) Stolen property was recovered in 15 theft and 9 house-breaking cases, and culprits were traced in 15 theft and 11 house-breaking cases.

(*d*) Lack of assistance from the public, and congress activities.

WATER-MARKED PETITION PAPER.

4. Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan: Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) under what provisions of Stamp Law or any other law, the price of the standard pattern, water-marked petition paper was raised from Rs. 7-8-0 per ream to Rs. 15 per ream ?

(*b*) under what provisions of law a monopoly for the sale of the aforesaid paper was created in favour of the Government ?

(*c*) how much money has this increase of price of the aforesaid paper brought to the Government up to the 31st March 1930 ?

(*d*) is the Government aware that in the adjacent province of United Provinces the price of similar paper is Rs. 7-8-0 per ream and that the use of any other thick paper is also allowed ?

(e) is the Government aware that the price of the aforesaid paper is not accounted in the memorandum of costs in civil or revenue suits?

(f) if so, have Government under consideration any proposal to reduce the price of the aforesaid paper and to abolish the monopoly of Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a), (b) Under Section 107 (Clause (c)) of the Government of India Act, by which the High Court is entitled to direct that Courts shall receive plaints, petitions, etc., only on a certain kind of paper. The orders that only the paper mentioned in the question can be used were passed in the exercise of that power and Government fixed the price it considered suitable.

(c) Rupees 5,37,240.

(d) In the United Provinces the price is Rs. 15 per ream, as in the Punjab. Government is not aware that the use of any other thick paper is also allowed.

(e) Yes.

(f) No.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

5. Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state how much money was paid to the Public Prosecutors for the conduct of civil suits on behalf of the Government in the financial years 1928-29 and 1929-30?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Rs. 9,374-5-0 and Rs. 8,095-4-6 were paid to Government pleaders for conducting civil suits on behalf of Punjab Government in the years 1928-29 and 1929-30, respectively.

GROWING OF POPPY.

6. Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) in what districts of the Punjab poppy was grown in the agricultural year 1929-30?

(b) when was poppy last grown in the Ambala district?

(c) whether Government intend to allow the growing of poppy in the Ambala district in the near future?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (a) Simla, Kangra, Hoshiarpur, and Jullundur districts.

(b) *Rabi*, 1909.

(c) No.

CULTIVATION OF SUGARCANE.

7. Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) what percentage of the total area of the province under cultivation was under the cultivation of sugarcane crop in the agricultural year 1929-30;

[Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.]

(*b*) the money value of sugar imported into the Punjab from foreign countries in the year 1929-30 ;

(*c*) whether the local Government have suggested to the Government of India the desirability of increasing the import duty on foreign sugar ; and

(*d*) whether Government intend to encourage the growing of sugar-cane crop by foregoing the land revenue of the land under sugar-cane crop ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) One per cent.

(*b*) The information is not available.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Government proposes to take special steps to encourage the growth of sugarcane but these will not take the form suggested by the honourable member.

SUB-TREASURY AT SIRSA.

8. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, checked the sub-treasury at Sirsa in October last and found its cash balance short by Rs. 250 in two anna pieces ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that while the inspection of the sub-treasury was completed, the Deputy Commissioner went to the rest-house to take lunch ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that when the Deputy Commissioner returned to the sub-treasury after two hours or thereabout and checked the sub-treasury again, he found the cash balance correct ;

(*d*) whether these facts have been brought to the notice of Government through representation made by some people of the Sirsa tahsil ;

(*e*) if the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, what action, if any, has been taken by the Government against the officers at fault ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes, but on immediate investigation it was found that a bag of 2 annas pieces of the value of Rs. 250 had been incorrectly placed amongst bags containing uncurrent coins.

(*b*) The Deputy Commissioner does not recollect.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

IRRIGATION FACILITIES TO KALANAUR, ROHTAK DISTRICT.

9. **Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that some area of Kalanaur village in the Rohtak district is irrigated by Kahraur branch of the Hansi distributary ;

(*b*) what percentage of the total cultivated area of Kalanaur is fixed for being irrigated by this branch ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that during the last six years this percentage was never irrigated ;

(*d*) what was the percentage of the irrigated area in *rabi* 1929-30 and *kharif* 1930 to the total cultivated area of Kalanaur ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the War services of this village are more than those of any other village in the Rohtak district ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that during the last six years the village has suffered considerably on account of its supply of water having been reduced ;

(*g*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what action Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Thirty-three per cent. annually of the culturable commanded area within the irrigation boundary of the Canal.

(*c*) Yes ; however irrigated area is now very nearly equal to the annual permissible area.

(*d*) The information has been called for and will be supplied to the honourable member as soon as received.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) No, the supply of water to the village has not been reduced.

(*g*) The water supply to the village has been steadily improved during the last few years and endeavour is being made to give the village its proper supply of water.

UNLAWFUL CAMEL-FEEDING BY CARRIERS.

10. **Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Government is aware that every year in the winter season many men with their camels go from the central districts of the Punjab to the eastern districts and do the work of carriers ;

(*ii*) whether the Government is also aware that these men do not spend anything upon the feeding of their camels and feed them upon the trees of the villagers ;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that these men often create trouble and commit offences or invite trouble to themselves when feeding their camels ;

[Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.]

(*iv*) How many criminal cases were registered against such persons in the districts of Ambala and Karnal from 1st January 1930 to 31st December 1930;

(*v*) whether it is a fact that even offences under sections 147, 304 and 325, Indian Penal Code, remain untraced against such persons because the accused cannot be found;

(*vi*) if so, what action Government intend to take in the matter;

(*vii*) whether it is also a fact that under the rules in force at the present day these men are liable to pay any professional or *Haisiyat* Tax in the districts of their homes or in the districts in which they work as carriers;

(*viii*) if so, whether Government intend to take any action to make these persons liable to the tax at one place or the other?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*i*) to (*vi*) The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

(*vii*) Taxes vary in different districts. Generally speaking, no one is liable to *Haisiyat* Tax unless—

(1) his annual income exceeds Rs. 400;

(2) he resides for more than 180 days in any one year in the area subject to the authority levying the tax

or is liable to professional tax unless his profession is specified in the notification imposing the tax.

(*viii*) The matter being one for consideration by the local authorities concerned, Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

TAQAVI AND LAND REVENUE.

11. Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the whole of the province in a tabular form for each of the last five years separately—

(*a*) the amount of *taqavi* given,

(*b*) the *taqavi* arrears remitted,

(*c*) the amount of land revenue remitted,

(*d*) the amount of land revenue suspended?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(*a*)	16,35,847	13,15,515	24,29,052	54,79,273	45,45,677
(*b*)	2,12,703	1,01,211	56,648	5,133	88,491
(*c*)	2,65,628	83,651	3,83,040	1,69,091	6,98,197
(*d*)	4,50,664	2,34,951	3,39,244	18,15,169	21,90,339

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

12. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government College, Lahore, recruits in the first year class only those students who matriculate in the 1st Division ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the results of the Government College, Lahore, are always poor as compared with those of other colleges in Lahore in which there is no special restriction for admission ;

(*c*) if so, the reasons of the poor results of the Government College, Lahore, and the action which Government has so far taken or intends to take in this respect ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No. The results in the Government College compare very favourably with those in other colleges.

(*c*) Does not arise.

FILTH DEPOT IN NAROWAL.

13. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that municipal committee of Narowal has made a filth depot within the population to the south of the city where sacred *tazias* are placed on the 10th of the Muharram and where thousands of people gather on the Muharram occasion ;

(*b*) If so, what action Government proposes to take to save the public from the effects of the bad smell of this filth depot and to meet the grievance of the *Shia* public of Narowal ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) It is a fact that under the orders of the Municipal Committee of Narowal filth is deposited on a site south of the town. This site, however, is not within the inhabited part of the town and is some distance from the place where the *tazias* are rested at Muharram, and it is cleaned daily.

(*b*) No action by Government is necessary, as the President of the Committee has informed the Deputy Commissioner that another site for a filth depot is being arranged before the next Muharram.

ROHTAK AND BHALAUT DISTRIBUTARIES.

14. **Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the number of days for which the Rohtak and Bhalaut Distributaries ran with a full supply of water in January 1931 ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : During January 1931, Rohtak Distributary ran with full supply for 7 days and Bhalaut for 8 days.

STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

15. Chaudhri Ram Sarup : Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Hindus recruited direct as Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors of Police, respectively, during the last ten years and how many of them are statutory agriculturists ;

(*b*) the number of Hindus who have been recruited direct as Prosecuting Inspectors or Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors of Police during the last five years and how many of them are statutory agriculturists ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :

(*a*) Deputy Superintendent of Police.	Inspectors of Police.
One.	Two, of whom one was a statutory agriculturist.

(*b*) No direct appointments are made in the rank of Prosecuting Inspector of Police. Fourteen Hindu Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors were recruited direct during the last five years of whom one is a statutory agriculturist.

The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Alexander Stow to unstarred Council question No. 1511[1] in the budget session of 1930, in which it was pointed out that the paucity of Hindu agriculturists in all ranks of the police is due to the fact that few candidates of this class present themselves for enlistment.

REFERENCES TO LATE PANDIT MOTILAL, *NEHRU*, MAULANA MUHAMMAD ALI AND SARDAR HARBAKHSH SINGH.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Land-holders, General) : Before the commencement of today's proceedings there is one matter which, with your permission, I should like to place before the Council. I mean a condolence resolution expressing the sorrow of the Council on the death of two great patriots who have passed away since the Council last met, namely, Pandit Motilal Nehru and Maulana Muhammad Ali.

Mr. President : Yes. The honourable member has my permission.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : I move that this Council expresses its deep and heartfelt sorrow at the loss of Pandit Motilal Nehru and Maulana Muhammad Ali, when the wise counsel and brilliant leadership of the same were greatly needed at the present juncture. I need not dwell on the high qualities of the gentlemen who have passed away. Pandit Motilal Nehru's ability and his qualities of head and heart are acknowledged by all. His patriotism was unquestionable and his sacrifice very great. He gave up a lucrative practice and devoted himself to the cause of the country which he advocated with great enthusiasm up to the moment of his death. I had the privilege of having Maulana MuhammadAli as my colleague

[1] Vol. XV, page 198.

in the Round Table Conference, and his last brilliant speech which was telegraphed at the time all over the world was heard with rapt attention by the members present at the Conference. He was suffering from a very serious disease when he left India. He knew that his time was near, but still he could not yield to anything so far as his personality was concerned when the interests of his country required him. He went to the Conference and was there for some time, and passed away. I need not say more of the qualities of these two gentlemen. They are well known and this Council will only be fulfilling its proper duty if it expresses its sympathy and condolence on the death of these two great patriots.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan (Sialkot, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I rise to crave your permission to ask the House to join in expressing the deep sense of sorrow at the loss of our late Deputy President, Sardar Harbakhsh Singh, whose untimely death has been a matter of very great personal regret for us in as much as he was a personal friend of every member of this House. I am sure the House will join with me in the expression of regret, and you will be kind enough to direct that this expression of sorrow on behalf of the House may be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): I wish to associate myself in the first place with Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan in supporting the resolution he has moved, to convey the condolence of this House to the family of Sardar Harbakhsh Singh. He was a very valued member of my community and a very valued member of this House, and I wish to be wholeheartedly associated in expressing our sense of sorrow and our sympathy with the bereaved family.

I should also like to support my honourable friend, Raja Narendra Nath. It was my privilege to enjoy the friendship both of Pandit Motilal Nehru and Maulana Muhammad Ali. Many years ago in Nainital there used to meet a group of people, every evening, the leading light of the group being Pandit Motilal. He was then one of the leading lawyers and cared little about politics. He was busy with his own profession, and life was full of enjoyment for him. We had in that group Pandit Sundar Lal who had equally large practice. He was very busy hoarding money while Pandit Motilal was busy both in earning and spending it. I easily recall many evenings joyfully spent with Pandit Motilal, and I not only mourn the loss of a great politician and a statesman who made great sacrifices in the interests of his country, but I mourn the loss of a friend.

Of Maulana Muhammad Ali, I can speak with same affection. I remember, just when he returned from Oxford, I was contributing a series of articles on the reign of Akbar to the various papers. He wrote to me a long letter through my old friend Rai G. N. Chakarvarti pointing out his own views. After that we met and our acquaintance ripened into friendship. He was a great cricketer in those days, and went to Baroda to play the game, and the Maharaja secured his services, and he wrote to me in high spirits—

سفینہ جب کہ کنارے پہ جا لگا غالب

[Hon. Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

For both of them I had the highest regard and esteem. Both of them represented a school of thought and culture which is slowly dying out. Pandit Motilal used to quote from Persian and Urdu poets, and as for Maulana Muhammad Ali, I need hardly say, that those who read his '*Comrade*' realised how he used to quote Persian poets and write in a vigorous and vital style. I can do no more but express on behalf of myself and my colleagues our deep sorrow at the loss and sympathies with the bereaved family.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : Though my senior, Sir Jogendra Singh, has spoken not only on behalf of himself but also on behalf of his colleagues, I think I shall be failing in my duty if I did not get up and join in the tribute which Raja Narendra Nath has paid to the memory of the two great men who left India poorer by their deaths. Like Sir Jogendra Singh I had the privilege of knowing both these gentlemen and had further the privilege of having been together in various meetings held to discuss various political questions. I made Maulana Muhammad Ali's acquaintance many many years ago when his security was forfeited and his case came up on appeal before the Chief Court as it was then.

He had engaged a very eminent counsel to represent him, but characteristically enough he got up himself in the middle of the argument, asked his learned counsel to resume his seat and continued the arguments himself. I am sure the counsel was not sorry to have resigned in favour of his client. Mr. Muhammad Ali argued his own case before the Division Bench in such an admirable way that we were all astonished that a layman like him should be able to conduct his own case so ably. When the case was over I could not help going to him and shaking hands with him and complimenting him on the great ability he had shown in conducting his own case. But he paid us, lawyers, some compliments in return which were not entirely complimentary. I said : "Maulana Sahib, we are very sorry that you are not a member of the bar." He replied, "No, thank you, I thank my God that I am not a member of the bar. Look at the opposing counsel. He knows perfectly well that my case is perfectly right and just and yet he is opposing it. I am thankful that I am not a member of your fraternity." That was what Maulana Muhammad Ali felt about the legal profession. After that we met each other on many occasions. It will be interesting for many gentlemen to know that in the great unity conference which was held at Simla two or three years ago he played a very important part, and if the conference did not come to any satisfactory conclusions it was not his fault at all. I am perfectly convinced that he did all that lay in his power to bring both the communities together. He was perfectly sincere and earnest at the time in his wishes and efforts for the union of the two communities.

I come now to the other great man, Pandit Motilal Nehru. It would indeed be presumptuous on my part to attempt to describe his great qualities of head and heart. Not only was he one of the leading lawyers of the country, not only was he one of the greatest politicians of his time, but he was also one of the most charitably disposed persons that I have ever come across. Having been brought up in the lap of luxury, having made lakhs and spent lakhs on his own comfort and luxuries, having lived all his life as a prince in a palace of his own, it was really nothing short of a miracle that such

a change should have come in his life that he should have turned himself into an ascetic and devoted himself to the service of his country according to the best of his lights. I am sure his name will live for ever in Indian history, and will always be remembered with respect, affection and gratitude. The Punjabis, especially, owe him a special debt of gratitude. When during the martial law days the Punjab was passing through very dark times, he was one of the few noble gentlemen from outside the Punjab who came down here to help us. He spent a great deal of his time and money in helping us, and for that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to him. In political ideals and methods there will always be differences of opinion, but that should not prevent any one from appreciating the sterling qualities possessed by men like Pandit Motilal Nehru, who was one of the greatest sons of India and who deserves respect, affection and gratitude at the hands of his countrymen.

I want also to associate myself wholeheartedly with what Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan has said about our late Deputy President. It is very unfortunate that he did not live long to enjoy the honour which this House conferred on him. In one respect I was fortunate ; shortly before his death, when I happened to be visiting Hoshiarpur, I took the opportunity to go to his house, sit with him for some time and talk with him about his health and certain other affairs. He was then very weak and could talk only with great difficulty. Much as I wished to continue my talk with him I had to cut it short when I found that he could carry on a conversation only with great pain. He was very anxious to tell me so many things about his public life, and so on, but he was too weak to do so. It was personally a matter of gratification to me that I had this opportunity of seeing him just two days before he passed away. Once more I wholeheartedly associate myself with Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan in the expression of sorrow at his death and sympathy with those whom he has left behind.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : Sir, I wish wholeheartedly to associate myself with the previous speakers in their expressions of sympathy and condolence.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram (South-East Rohtak, Non Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, on behalf of the Punjab National Unionist Party I associate myself wholeheartedly with the remarks that have fallen from the previous speakers with regard to Maulana Muhammad Ali, Pandit Motilal Nehru and our late lamented Deputy President. Maulana Muhammad Ali and Pandit Motilal Nehru were men of outstanding merits and outstanding position. The forceful personality of Maulana Muhammad Ali would have marked him out for high position in any country and at any time. Pandit Motilal Nehru had such wide sympathies, broad outlook and intense patriotism that he was bound to shine in any sphere in any country and at any time. It is a pity that these two gifted sons of India should have died at a time when their services were needed most by the motherland. We all mourn their loss and regret that they had not been spared for a few more years in order to bring about real unity between the Hindus and the Muhammadans and to see the introduction of real *swaraj* in our country.

Sardar Buta Singh (Multan Division and Sheikhupura, Sikh, Rural): I too most heartily associate myself with the expressions of sympathy and condolence which have fallen from the previous speakers. I need not dilate upon the qualities of head and heart of these two patriots as they have been already referred to by previous speakers. It is a pity that we should have lost both these noble souls at a critical time in our history when they could have guided us safely to our destiny.

As regards our late lamented colleague, Sardar Harbakhsh Singh, both personally and on behalf of my Sikh friends here, I wholeheartedly associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers and suggest that the sincere condolence of this House be conveyed to his relations.

Mr. E. Maya Das (Nominated non-official): On behalf of the Indian Christian community that I represent in this House, I wholeheartedly associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION *re* *TAQAVI* LOANS.

Mr. President: The Council will now resume[1] the discussion on the following resolution:—

> "This Council recommends to the Government to advance *taqavi* loans to the zamindars at a nominal rate of interest to meet the extraordinary strain on their financial resources caused by abnormal slump in the market."

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend (Financial Commissioner): When I was speaking on this resolution during the last session, I had just said that the amount of *taqavi* which Government had advanced under both the Acts had increased very greatly in recent years. But I had also said that the figures of arrears overdue, that is, arrears not suspended by proper authority, had also been increasing in the same fashion. In that connection I will give the House a few figures, going back to 1924-25. At the end of that year, overdues, that is, sums which should have been, but had not been paid, were Rs. 2,70,000; in the following year they rose by one lakh to Rs. 3,71,000. At the end of 1927 they were Rs. 3,93,000; in the following year they stood at something over Rs. 3,00,000. The figures of overdues for 1928-29 and 1929-30 are remarkable. At the end of 1929 the figure was Rs. 7,50,000; at the end of 1930, Rs. 16,00,000. The figures speak for themselves. Apart from these overdues, we have large arrears of *taqavi* outstanding in the province which have been suspended by proper authority. I shall give a few figures for the same years as those just mentioned. At the end of the year 1924-25, the arrears were Rs. 77,000, at the end of the next year, Rs. 1,65,000, on March 31 1927, the arrears were Rs. 1,31,000, and at the next financial year, Rs. 1,19,000. The arrears on March 31, 1929, were Rs. 9,50,000, and the amount of *taqavi* under suspension at the close of the financial year 1929-30, was no less than Rs. 21,90,000. Here again, the figures speak for themselves.

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[1] *Vide* Vol. XVII, pages 321—325.

The policy of Government in this matter is always to treat with particular consideration areas in which agricultural conditions have for any reason, such as a deficient monsoon, floods or other natural calamities, become particularly bad. Thus the areas lying in the Jumna riverain which suffered severely from floods in the autumn of 1924, were given very large amounts of *taqavi* to enable them to replace their cattle and to sow the *rabi* crop. The results were satisfactory. Similar treatment was accorded to the areas in the south-west of the province,—the Multan division—which suffered very severely from floods eighteen months ago. I am confident that honourable members from those districts will support me in this remark. But even more remarkable, I think, is the case of the Gurgaon district. We have in recent years advanced *taqavi* in that district to a very great extent. It is a very poor district, I admit, and the recent agricultural conditions have been very unsatisfactory. In 1924-25 we advanced nearly Rs. 4,25,000, in the following year about Rs. 4,00,000 and in the next year something about three lakhs. Something less than three lakhs were advanced in the following year. In 1928-29 we advanced Rs. 9,13,000, and in the financial year which ended on 31st March last, Rs. 7,43,000. It has indeed been said that so liberal is the policy adopted by Government in this matter towards Gurgaon that that district has recently been living on the "dole." I do not agree with the remark myself, but I mention it to show to the House that Government has in no way been illiberal in this matter of *taqavi* grants. There is but little wonder that in the five years ending 31st March last we have had to remit over 4½ lakhs of rupees of *taqavi* and in the present financial year we are remitting 5 lakhs. I fear that we shall have to remit still more in the years before us.

I wish to take this opportunity of acknowledging the great consideration which the Finance Department have always shown to us on the revenue side whenever we have asked, even at very short notice, for additional *taqavi* grants. No application for money or for additional grants, however unexpected, has ever been refused, and the Finance Department has again and again not hesitated to incur the wrath of this House by anticipating its sanction in the matter. I wish to tell the House with the utmost emphasis that no reasonable application for *taqavi* which has ever come before the Financial Commissioner has been refused, and I am confident that Collectors and Commissioners adopt the same policy. I know when I was a Commissioner I always did so. To my own knowledge two members of the recent House—one is not a member now but the other is a member now—received large amounts of *taqavi* to enable them to instal tube-wells. I saw one of those installations myself when I was Commissioner. I only mention this as a matter which might interest the House on the personal side. We have recently taken steps to simplify our *taqavi* procedure and to enable the applications for loans to be granted more readily than in previous years. We have also taken such steps as seem to us possible to minimise the greasing of the palms of subordinates, which must, I fear, to a greater or less extent always take place in such distributions. If any criticism can be passed on the policy of Government on this matter of *taqavi*, it might more justifiably be said that we have been unduly liberal rather than the reverse. I leave it to my colleague, the Financial Secretary, to elaborate in greater detail the purely financial aspect of the motion.

Mr. F. H. Puckle (Financial Secretary): I think, Sir, that the House may be glad to hear at this stage, before the honourable members come to the business of making up their minds on this resolution, what the resolution looks like regarding it from the financial point of view. As I see this resolution it is open to two objections, one on the ground of principle and the second on the ground of financial practice. The objection on the ground of principle is rather an important one though it may not be quite clear at present. One of the first canons of public finance is that you should show in the public accounts exactly how every penny is spent and if you are going to divert a certain part of the public funds for the benefit of a particular class, it should be possible for any one looking through the public accounts to see that at once. I will give the House instances of this. In colony towns in new colonies there is generally a certain amount of land within the administrative boundaries of the town which will eventually be required for building purposes and is not yet built upon. This land is handed over to the local town committee for management and they take the profit. This land is really Government's. What happens is that instead of Government getting the revenue direct from this land and paying it into the general account the town committee take it, so that concealed in the revenue account there is an amount for general expenses paid to the town committee which no one can see. This resolution if carried into effect will produce an exactly similar situation, only on a far larger scale. There will be an entry in the accounts showing that so much has been advanced as a loan and there will be an entry that so much has been received in the way of interest. But there will be no entry at all showing that if the proper rates of interest have been charged the amount of interest which the State would have received would be much larger. So much for principle.

Now in practice there seems to be a financial objection to this resolution. Ordinarily, taking the matter over a period of years, honourable members may assume that loans have been given under the Land Improvement Act and the Agriculturists Loans Act at a rate of about 1 per cent. more than it has generally cost Government to borrow the money. This 1 per cent. is intended to cover the cost of administration of the Acts and to provide for a certain amount of bad debts, *i.e.*, remissions. Taking the accounts over the three years ending 1929-30, the margin that that one per cent. gave us was one lakh. During that period two lakhs of advances were written off. There is, therefore, a clear loss of one lakh on the working during those three years. I would like to put it in another way. In effect, the State made a grant of one lakh of rupees to a certain class of persons. It is perfectly correct to say at present that the State does not make a profit out of these loans. In fact there is a loss. In saying this I am reinforced by the opinion of the Banking Committee which recently held an enquiry in this province. Honourable members will remember that except for the President this was a non-official body. If I may, I will read a short extract from their report :—

> " It is clear from the above that the Punjab Government obtains less on its advances under the Agricultur ists Loans Act than it has to pay for its own loans, the rate for which during the last ten years has never been less than 5 per cent. The same would also appear to be the case with advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act. It is certain that the effective rate is appreciably less than the nominal rate, though the difference is much less marked than in the case of the Agriculturists Loans Act."

The Banking Enquiry Committee estimated that while the nominal amount of interest on loans under the Land Improvement Act worked to Rs. 6-9-5, the actual amount recovered in interest by the Punjab Government was Rs. 5-7-1. Under the Agriculturists Loans Act the figures are Rs. 6-9-5, whereas what was realised was only Rs. 3-6-6. Rs. 3-6-6 is at least 1½ per cent. less than the amount which Government is paying for this money.

The resolution itself asks that the rate of interest should be nominal. 'Nominal' is a very vague term, but the honourable mover of the resolution put the rate down at 3¼ per cent. I have some rather interesting figures as to the effect of that proposal. Let us assume that, as we are doing, in the current year, we make *taqavi* advances to the value of forty lakhs. That money we will have to borrow at 5½ per cent. which costs us Rs. 2,20,000 in the course of the year. We are going to lend that money to agriculturists at 3¼ per cent. We will get instead of Rs. 2,20,000 only Rs. 1,30,000. There is a free gift of Rs. 90,000. If you look at the figures which I have given, you will find that Government does not get actually the nominal interest which it is supposed to get. If you lend to zamindars at 3¼ per cent ; you will not get back 3¼ per cent ; you will get back something like 2 per cent. The actual loss on loans of Rs. 40,00,000 at 2 per cent. will be Rs. 1,40,000.

As the Honourable Financial Commissioner has told the Council, the Finance Department never refuses to provide *taqavi* advances, and though I am here opposing this resolution, the Finance Department has reason to be grateful to the honourable member who moved it, because it has drawn our attention rather more clearly to the loss which even under the present rules we are making over this kind of loan. If this resolution comes into effect, I am afraid the Finance Department will have to scrutinise a good deal more strictly every request for *taqavi* loans because the financial burden laid on the State by each lakh of *taqavi* loans will be very much higher. I think that on both these strong grounds this resolution should be rejected, first, on the ground of the financial principle and, secondly, because the system is expensive and will become more and more expensive as it goes on.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "This Council recommends to the Government to advance *taqavi* loans to the zamindars at a nominal rate of interest to meet the extraordinary strain on their financial resources caused by abnormal slump in the market."

The motion was lost.

RESOLUTION *re* REFUND OF EARNEST MONEY TO AUCTION PURCHASERS OF LAND IN THE NILI BAR.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Jullundur Sikh, Rural) : Sir, in moving the resolution I need hardly dwell on the difficulties which the purchasers, cultivators on temporary basis have been faced in the Nili Bar Colony.

3 P.M.

Mr. President : May I suggest to the honourable member to begin his speech by reading out his resolution ?

Sardar Gurbachan Singh : I move—

> "This Council recommends to the Government to refund to the auction purchasers the earnest money for the confiscated lands in the Nili Bar Colony, auctioned on 7th March 1928, under the conditions of sale published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, dated 17th February 1928."

Simple peasants bought this land on the understanding that the prices of produce will remain high, and they will be able to meet their instalments from the income of the land. They also expected that the land would be fertile and that the water supply for the first few years would be abundant. But they were disappointed in these directions. The water supply as can be proved from the records of the Irrigation Department itself was inadequate and the fall in prices is an established fact. The result was that the people were not able to pay their instalments and the Government took the extraordinary course of confiscating the lands and forfeiting the money that was paid in advance. I am sure the House will agree with me and press the Government to be generous in this matter. Either the money received may be refunded or the people be allowed to retain the land for which they have paid as has been done in other cases.

Mr. President :

> "This Council recommends to the Government to refund to the auction purchasers the earnest money for the confiscated lands in the Nili Bar Colony, auctioned on 7th March 1928, under the conditions of sale published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, dated 17th February 1928."

Mr. H. Calvert (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, it may be the House will not have quite understood why the resolution is worded in the exact terms in which the members find it on the Order Paper. The honourable mover has confined his recommendations to earnest money only and to an auction on a particular date. The question of affording relief to those who have purchased land during the various auctions held in the last 6 or 7 years has been constantly under the consideration of the Punjab Government and the Punjab Government has agreed in a very generous manner to release a large number of auction purchasers from sums due by them under their contracts with Government. (*Hear, hear*). I wish to emphasise that these lands have been purchased in open auction. The purchase price was bid before the collapse of prices. The sum bid was the sum tendered by the auction purchasers themselves and was in no way fixed by Government. Where it has appeared that the auction purchasers have really tried to meet their obligations under their contracts, Government has offered them land equivalent to the sum of money they have paid up. That is the genesis of the honourable member's final recommendation that if the earnest money cannot be repaid, they may be allowed to take land equivalent to the sum paid up.

Now, the auction referred to in the resolution was held on the 6th and 7th of March. As the honourable mover has confined himself to the 7th March, I will do the same. Some 36 lots are involved. The earnest money deposited was 10 per cent. of the price bid. The prices bid on that occasion were in no way excessive at the time. They varied from Rs. 310 to Rs. 550 per acre so the earnest money varied from Rs. 31 to Rs. 55 per acre. Now, although the auction took place in March 1928, none of these lands was confiscated before January 1930. The honourable mover has mentioned

that the water supply was not up to the expectations. That is admitted and it was on the consideration of that fact that the Colonization Officer did not take any action for nearly 2 years. He allowed the harvests following that of March 1928 to be free harvests. It is admitted that these harvests were poor and that the whole of the land purchased did not come under cultivation. In consideration of that fact he allowed the first harvest to be a free harvest and did not count the full harvest before the *rabi* of 1929. Where these people have been able to pay up the first instalment or even the current demand for interest, quite apart from any further instalments, they have been allowed to remain in possession of the land. Confiscation has only taken place where after the earnest money has been paid they have not even paid the interest due on their bids. It will be seen that the earnest money paid up may be regarded as what I might call a fair rent which these people would have to pay for the land they have acquired. Government does not in the least deny that great hardship has been caused among these, especially those who bid rather over-high for the lands they purchased, and has, as I have said, tried to meet in a very generous manner indeed, the cases of all auction purchasers who have paid more than the earnest money. Even where a man has only paid one instalment, we are offering him land equivalent to the area covered by the earnest money *plus* his instalment. Where the man has paid the earnest money *plus* interest, we have allowed him to remain in possession of the land. It is only where he has refused to pay his first instalment or even the interest, that we have confiscated the land and forfeited the earnest money. Now, even in this case we have relieved him from the very heavy burden under his own contract. These people have agreed that if they default the instalment the land is to be re-auctioned and they will be liable to make good the loss of any difference in price between what they bid and what was bid at the later auction. Government does not intend to press that condition under the contract. It has relieved them entirely of that very great obligation under their contract.

I hope I have said enough to explain to the House firstly how very anxiously Government is considering the cases of auction purchasers, not only those mentioned by the honourable mover, but all those who bid at auctions from 1925 onwards. It has granted very large concessions and there are other proposals now pending with Government on a similar subject. The main point I wish to emphasise is that Government has been sympathetic in the extreme. I have no figures to show exactly the value of the dues which the Government has given up. The papers now under consideration will involve the Government in a possible sacrifice of many lakhs of rupees. I hope honourable members will agree that there is and must be a limit to what Government, representing the State as a whole, can give relief to individuals. Thirty-six people who bought land on the date referred to in the resolution paid the earnest money. I believe the majority of them paid nothing beyond their earnest money. Therefore only 36 people are involved in this particular case. The number of people affected by the concessions must reach many hundreds. It is very very far from my intention or the intention of the Government to deal harshly with any body of men who have become enmeshed in difficulties owing

[Mr. H. Calvert.]
to the collapse of prices. I would like to point out to honourable members that these bids were made before the collapse of prices took place, and therefore the collapse of prices cannot be an excuse for those who have only paid their earnest money. In various auctions a very large number of people have done their very best to go on paying instalments. Some have paid as much as half of what they bid and these people deserve consideration first before we come back to people who have made no attempt to pay their auction money. It is far indeed from the intention of Government to insist on its full pound of flesh. Government has abandoned to a very large extent its legal right under the contract and I am sure the Honourable Revenue Member will prove sympathetic in all cases now pending with him as he has done in those on which he has passed orders. In this particular case I would merely invite the attention of the House that where people have tried to pay off we have met them. We have confiscated the earnest money only of those people who have simply made no attempt whatever to pay even the interest or even the first instalment of their dues. (*Hear, hear*).

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana (Muhammadan Landholders) (*Urdu*): Sir, I just want to say one word with regard to the resolution under consideration. The remarks made by the Honourable the Financial Commissioner are quite sound. The zamindar members of the House are grateful to His Excellency the Governor in Council for deciding that persons who have paid money sufficient to make up at least the price of one square of land should be given land, and those who have not paid so much money should be given no land. But this limit of one square of land, I would submit, is also unfair, for the poor bidders have already paid ten per cent. of the price of land. I would suggest that all such persons should either be given land or their money should be refunded. I would not like to say anything else with regard to the resolution for that would be beyond its scope. If Government is prepared to reconsider the matter and to give assurance as to the point I have urged, I would ask the honourable mover to withdraw his resolution.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member] (*Urdu*): In view of the well-reasoned and clear speech of my friend, the Honourable Financial Commissioner it is not necessary for me to contribute a lengthy speech to the discussion on the resolution under consideration. But as this is a matter in which many people besides the mover are interested I should like to say a few words.

Sir, I need hardly say that I have every sympathy with the mover of the resolution and I realise the difficulties of zamindars as I am a zamindar myself. But I cannot refrain from saying that the motion now before the House is not business; on the contrary it is against all canons of business obligations. As the Honourable the Financial Commissioner observed———

Pir Akbar Ali: The matter relates to Government and not to business men.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: The Government is bound to protect the zamindars and the business men alike and hold them both to their contracts.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : But wherefrom does the question of business come in ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is clearly a matter of business. The honourable member being a lawyer should know that the parties to an agreement have to abide by it and fulfil their respective obligations, and the party which fails to do so is liable for damages. The Honourable Financial Commissioner has informed the House that so far as this particular auction is concerned, the purchasers have only paid their earnest money. They have not paid a single instalment of purchase money since 1928. They, therefore, cannot say with any show of reason that in view of the abnormal fall in prices they are unable to pay the instalments of purchase money. If they had a mind to pay they could have done so as the prices did not begin declining till some time about the middle of last year. Again they cannot say that in this particular auction bidding was abnormally high. As a matter of fact much higher price was paid by purchasers in other districts after 1921. In some cases a single square was sold in open auction for 18 or 20 and in some cases 40 thousands of rupees. It would, therefore, not be correct to say that in this auction the bidding was very high. As a matter of fact in this case it was quite the reverse. The highest bid in this auction for a square of land was Rs. 550 while much higher prices were paid in other auctions. Despite these considerations, the Government has no mind to exact the last pound of flesh and is, as it has done on many an occasion before, prepared to take a sympathetic view. Honourable members of this House are aware that during the last twelve months or more large concessions have been given to the zamindars in the Nili Bar and conditions of sale and agreements have been relaxed in favour of the zamindars. However, in view of the general depression the Government is prepared to help these people as it has done in the case of others before now. Honourable members would remember that Government announced certain concessions in the case of those purchasers who had paid some instalments of purchase money. It was decided that instead of confiscating their land they should be given an option of keeping land equivalent to the amount paid by them subject to a limit as the minimum area which could be retained by them ; if these instalments did not come up to the amount required they could pay the balance in cash. In view of the difficulties now confronting the bidders affected by this resolution Government is prepared not only to extend this concession to them but also to go further and reduce in their case the limit from one square to half a square of land. Government is prepared to make a further concession that those, who have not paid an amount sufficient to pay for half a square of land, will be allowed to pay for the balance at the rate of Rs. 450 an acre instead of Rs. 550. I am sure you cannot expect more from Government. By agreeing to this, Government will lose a large sum of money. I would, therefore, appeal to the honourable members not to forget these concessions when they have an occasion to speak in this honourable House. They always forget this in trying to wring out something more. During my recent tour in Nili Bar I interviewed a deputation of zamindars who related their grievances to me and this was one of their grievances. The other was that *malikana* should be realised from lessees on matured area.

Mr. President : I would request the Honourable Member to confine his speech to the resolution before the House.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Sir, I wanted to say that the zamindars in the Nili Bar have already been granted large concessions and that they are, therefore, not justified in saying that Government pays little heed to their grievances. So far as the temporary cultivators are concerned, I am glad to announce that Government has decided to charge *malikana* for Nili Bar lessees on matured area instead of allotted area for the present *kharif* and the next two harvests, *i.e.*, *rabi* 1931 and *kharif* 1931.

Sardar Sampuran Singh [Lyallpur, Sikh, Rural]: Sir, I am very much thankful to the Government for the sympathy which they have shown towards the zamindars in bringing down the area of one square to half a square. But considering the position of the zamindars of lower status, I think that even that limit of half a square is very high. To make things very convenient and to administer equal justice to all I would rather suggest that if this is also allowed that 3 or 4 persons combine together to take half a square they might as well be given that area for the money if the amount comes to the price of that area. I quite agree that strictly speaking Government is perfectly correct when they say that the people have in open auction entered into agreements with Government and there is no reason why they should complain about it, but it cannot be lost sight of that it is not only the business relations between the buyer and the seller in this auction, but at the same time we have to keep these facts in view that the subjects are dealing with the Government, Government whose duty it is to see whether their subjects are making proper bargains or bad bargains and if these conditions have really put the people into very hard conditions, it is not only fair and just—I should say it is as well the duty of Government—to relieve them from their position into which on account of, perhaps, their own foolishness they have put themselves. I have made this submission only with this viewpoint that this limit of half a square is also very high specially for the poor zamindars who can only buy small areas.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I would save the honourable member a lot of breath if I inform him that only 36 persons are concerned in this matter, and it is not the case of poor people about whom he is trying to be eloquent.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : I am talking about those poor people among these 36 purchasers, if there are any, who found it difficult to purchase any large areas of land. Such people should be entitled to purchase half a square of land and Government should have no objection to agreeing to my proposal.

Mr. H. Calvert : May I inform the honourable member that the average price of a square comes to Rs. 30,000 ? I do not think any poor people can afford to pay so much.

Sardar Sampuran Singh : I think the people who were very rich two years ago are really very hard hit by these rates, and we find that people who are cultivating land on temporary cultivation took lands from the Government with the idea that they will be able to pay back their

value after working on these lands. Under these conditions into which we have fallen so suddenly I think that these people who have entered into these agreements are really poor people.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan [Ambala Division, North-East, Muhammadan, Rural]: I rise to support the resolution on the ground that it is pleading for the zamindars who are too poor to lose the money which has been paid as earnest money. The Honourable the Financial Commissioner and the Revenue Member have assured us that Government is prepared to give relief to those who have paid earnest money sufficient to cover the price of one square or half a rectangle. The Government has then made another concession that where the price used to be Rs. 500 for a certain kind of land it would take Rs. 450. (*The Honourable Revenue Member*: For the balance). Yes, for the balance. But that is a concession which could be availed of by persons able to pay any money. But there are people too poor to do it who had just enough to pay the earnest money. (*The Honourable Revenue Member*: No. There are only 36 people and they are people paying Rs. 30,000 each.) I wish to say that when these zamindars paid the earnest money it was their idea to take the land, for nothing is dearer to the heart of a zamindar than land, but they failed to make any further payment simply because of the fact that they were unable to do so. The Government must now come to the rescue of the zamindars who helped the Government in its distress. Government must not take advantage of the fact that these people have not been true to the terms of the bargain they have made and therefore confiscate the earnest money. (*The Honourable Revenue Member*: We are not.) Government must not take this hard view of the zamindars. (*Interruption*).

Mr. President: Order, order. The honourable member should not be interrupted.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: The zamindars find it very difficult to pay the remaining instalments and there is no reason why they should lose that money which they had paid as earnest money. They are very hard hit by the low prices that are prevailing to-day and to make a demand on them that they should make up the remaining money for purchasing the fixed extent of land which the Government have graciously agreed to allot them for making up their loss is very difficult on them. The fact that the zamindars have not been able to pay up the remaining instalments clearly shows that they are truly unable to meet this strain on them. At this juncture Government must come to their rescue and help the zamindars who have always been helping Government. Whenever their help was needed it was quite at hand. The zamindars have never pretended that there is a liability on them to give recruits or make contributions to the funds of Government. Yet Government can press them for these things in times of need. Should it not come to their rescue in return? The Government says that under the terms of the bargain it could confiscate the amount paid as earnest money in case of failure to pay the remaining instalments. That is a very hard rule to be enforced on the zamindars and undue advantage is being taken of the helpless condition in which they find themselves now. (*The Honourable Revenue Member*: These are not

[Ch. Allah Dad Khan.]

zamindars. All the 36 people are capitalists.) The capitalists have been hit more by the low prices, I mean among the zamindars, because they are not getting any return for the money which they have spent in their business pursuits. In any way it is not fair to take advantage of the inability of these people. For, if they were able to pay, they would surely have done so. Who is there who would willingly allow money already paid by him to be lost to him. Under the circumstances, I think, the proper thing for the Government to do is to return the money which it has confiscated, and as my honourable friend has suggested if Government finds this difficult, the money paid by three or four men can be added together and if that amounts to the price fixed for half a rectangle or a square, that extent of land should be allotted to one of them who shall recover money from the other shareholders of this rectangle or square.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh : I am very grateful to the Honourable Member for Revenue for his assurance and in the light of what he has said I wish, with your permission, to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *re* LAND REVENUE CONCESSIONS TO ZAMINDARS OF *BARANI* AND *CHAHI* AREAS.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan [Jullundur, Muhammadan, Rural] : (*Urdu*) Sir, I beg to move that :—

> " This Council recommends to the Government that the same concessions in land revenue be granted to the zamindars of *barani* and *chahi* areas as have been granted to the zamindars of *nehri* areas."

Sir, the recent abnormal fall in the prices of agricultural produce has been a cause of anxiety and trouble not only to the zamindars of *nehri* areas but to the zamindars in general and if on that account any concession has been shown to the zamindars of *nehri* areas, it is desirable that similar concessions should be shown to the zamindars of *chahi* and *barani* areas. I am really sorry to find that the zamindars of the latter category have been totally ignored. They have been equally hard hit by this slump in the market and I really wonder why their case has not received consideration. I am inclined to think that perhaps because amongst the Ministers of the Government there is none who comes from a *chahi* or *barani* area, the case of these zamindars has not been put before the Government. How can these Ministers, who possess large areas of land on canals, know the hard lot of small holders possessing land in *chahi* and *barani* areas ? They cannot be aware of the fact, unless of course they take interest in the welfare of others, that these petty zamindars can hardly afford to have one *langoti* to wear and nothing else to protect themselves from the inclemencies of the weather. I am reminded here of a very apt Punjabi proverb which means that a blind man while distributing sweets will give again and again to his kith and kin. In a similar way these Ministers have perhaps advised the Government to grant concession to those zamindars only who, like them, live in *nehri* areas. It is really a pity that much more deserving people have not been given this concession. In Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Ludhiana districts, which are all *chahi* and *barani* tracts, the lands are so

much disintegrated that not more than a few canals of land comes to the share of a zamindar and if any of these zamindars is fortunate enough to possess two *bighas* of land, he must have ten or twelve persons to maintain from the income of that land. The abnormal fall in the prices of agricultural produce has hit them particularly hard. You will not believe me when I say that they have not enough to purchase salt and oil and similar bare necessities. The land revenue which they have paid this year has been paid by selling the ornaments, land or houses and other valuables at a very cheap rate. Government can verify the truth of this statement by making an enquiry into the matter. I should say that of all the zamindars who deserve any concession, the zamindars of *chahi* and *barani* tracts deserve it most. They have to sink wells themselves and they have to do everything else connected with the irrigation of their lands. On the other hand, the zamindars of the *nehri* areas have no worries for the irrigation of their lands. Government has to make all the arrangements for them and to employ a large establishment at its own expense for the proper distribution of water amongst these zamindars. In my opinion the Government has no justification to realise anything from the zamindars of *chahi* and *barani* tracts by way of land revenue or other cesses. But if it must realise land revenue, it is its duty to show these zamindars concession in times of distress before it shows any concession to other zamindars. I hope that my request which is very moderate will not go unheard and that this resolution will be readily accepted.

Mr. President :

"This Council recommends to the Government that the same concessions in land revenue may be granted to the zamindars of *barani* and *chahi* areas as have been granted to the zamindars of *nehri* areas.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend (Financial Commissioner) : I must oppose this resolution, not from any real want of sympathy with the cultivators of the *barani* and *chahi* portions of the province, but because it is entirely meaningless (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq* : Which is meaningless ?) I mean that the resolution as it is worded means nothing, as I hope to show the honourable member in a minute, if he will listen to me. The English translation of the honourable member's motion is that "the same concessions in land revenue may be granted to the zamindars of *barani and chahi* areas". I understand that the *Urdu* words he used were "*wohi riaiat.*"

The honourable member did not, I think, when he framed this resolution consult sufficiently the conditions of the concessions which we gave before Christmas to the peasants of the *nehri* areas. No concessions were given to the growers of rice when the total demand on them of *abiana* and land revenue combined was less than Rs. 8-8-0 an acre, or to the growers of cotton when the total demand was less than Rs. 7. To those cultivators of canal irrigated land on whom the total demand of Government exceeded these figures, the demand was reduced by 25 per cent. subject to these minima : in no case did we go below them. I have in my hand the papers and I would emphasise it at once that we gave no remission purely on land revenue as such : in all cases land revenue and *abiana* were considered together. I have with me figures which show our demands on *barani* and *chahi* lands throughout the province. If the House chooses to pass this

[Mr. C. A. H. Townsed.]
resolution the only effect will be that a few hundred acres of well irrigated land in the Chach circle of Attock, the Hazro ilaqa which grows excellent tobacco, will get a small concession.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Is the honourable member referring to the resolution in Urdu, or to the English translation of it ?

Mr. President : Is there any difference between the two ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : None whatever. The honourable member drew a distinction between the resolution as worded in English and the resolution as translated in Urdu. May I know what is the resolution he is opposing ? It is rather confusing, Sir.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : I am not in the least confusing. I am discussing both the resolutions. If he will ask me how, I shall endeavour to explain it to him.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : The honourable member wants to make a difference between what is stated in Urdu and what is stated in English. We cannot see any difference between the two. He is merely quibbling with words. We cannot understand him at all.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : I object to the word 'quibbling.' I am not doing so in the least. If the honourable member does not understand me I shall be very glad to explain it to him.

Let me proceed with my point after this entirely unnecessary interruption. If the House passes this resolution it will only mean that a few hundred acres of well irrigated land in the Chach circle of Attock will get a remission, but not another acre of land in the province will get any remission, because the demand which Government makes on them are infinitely lower than the minima which I have just mentioned to the House, namely, Rs. 7 an acre for cotton and Rs. 8½ an acre for rice.

But I do not wish to leave the House under any misapprehension. Government is, and has been for some months past, fully aware of the troubles which the fall in prices has caused to the people in the province. I have said so again and again in this House, and I repeat it now : we are constantly watching the situation. It is too early yet to say what relief, if any, may be necessary on the *rabi* harvest. We do not know—we have no idea at all—at present what prices will prevail at harvest time for wheat and other *rabi* crops : we do not even know how the crops will mature. But if conditions call for a remission at the proper time, the House may be sure that Government will most fully and sympathetically consider the matter. Under the circumstances I ask the House to reject the resolution.

Mr. President : Will the honourable mover read his Urdu resolution ?

(*Urdu resolution was read.*)

Mr. President : I am afraid the English translation of the resolution is not quite accurate. The original resolution is rather loosely worded. It says that concessions be shown to the zamindars of *barani* and *chahi* areas in the same way as concessions have been shown to the zamindars of the *nehri* areas. It does not mean exactly the same concessions. But apparently the English translation is not quite accurate.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : The English version which we got from the Council office speaks of "the same concessions"; it does not say "similar concessions." May I offer one more remark ? I do trust that the mover of this resolution will bear in mind the concluding words of my speech.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) : Sir, when my honourable friend was speaking he wanted to draw a distinction between some Urdu word and some English word. Then I knew there was something wrong.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : Sir, I wish to interrupt. I did not want to make any such distinction.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : My honourable friend is rather energetic to-day. I hope he will not fritter away his energies. He uttered the word "*wohi raiyat*" and wanted to draw a distinction which in fact did not exist. Therefore I used the word 'quibbling.' You will find, Sir, he has really quibbling. One who knows something of Punjabi or something of Urdu can easily see that the object of the mover is not as it has been interpreted by the honourable member. His object is not that the same concessions should be given in the case of *barani* and *chahi* lands as in the case of *nehri* lands. If it were so, the resolution would be entirely meaningless.

Mr. President : That was exactly the position taken up by the honourable member, Mr. Townsend, that the resolution as it stands is meaningless.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Sir, everybody knows that canal irrigated lands are in a much better position than well or rain irrigated lands. Therefore if any concession is shown to the zamindars of canal irrigated lands, at least some concession, an equally good concession, should be shown to the zamindars of *chahi* and *barani* tracts. In fact Government should be more sympathetic towards these people who have less chances of cultivating their lands and earning their livelihood than towards people in the canal areas who can depend upon a regular supply of water from Government or private canals. On the other hand I am sorry to note that Government, whenever they give any concessions, give them to those who clamour for them and not to those who are really and badly in need of them. I myself own some lands in the canal areas and I think it is only fair that I should say that some concession should be shown to the people who are absolutely dependent upon nature or upon wells. Otherwise the whole object of the concessions will be useless. Concessions should be given first of all to the poorest of the poor and not to the rich. You must give them to those who have no other means of livelihood. The people on the canal areas, If they cannot have their whole land irrigated, can have at least a half or a quarter of their lands irrigated, but not so the people who depend on the monsoon or wells. Often it is just possible that they might have only one-tenth or even one-twentieth of their lands irrigated. I am really at a loss to know what made Government show some concession to the people on the canal areas and not to the people on the well irrigated or rain irrigated areas. Why have they failed to take into consideration the condition of the people in these poor districts who are badly in need of some relief ? Government

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]
represents the whole of the people of the Punjab and not the people of the canal area alone. Should they not first of all help the people who are more needy before going to the rescue of people who are not so needy?

In this connection I must tell my honourable friends the zamindars in this House that there will be no hope of any concession being wrung from the Government unless they take courage and vote for reduction of Government expenditure. Government want money to accept this resolution. Where is the money to come from? They are not going to bring it from England, or Canada or New Zealand or Australia? Are they going to get it from Europe as a matter of charity? No, they can only take it out of us and spend it here. But so long as you have the present high scale of salaries, so long as you have this wastage in the Public Works Department, in the Canal Department, the Forest Department and various other departments of Government, how can you expect Government to find money to give relief to those who are so badly in need of it? It is impossible to get any concessions from Government at all. Government throws a small piece of bone before you and wants you to fight amongst yourselves. They are not going to do anything more than this. If you seriously and honestly want a remission of these rates you have to boldly vote for cutting down Government expenditure. But unfortunately when the time comes for such an action we find that the zamindar benches in this House are vacant, because they dare not face the music from the other side. But we have dared to face the music. Our friends here may cry hoarse, "concession, concession," but do they know where the money is to come from to give them those concessions?

You cannot expect the Finance Member by an act of his own to reduce his own salary; even none of the Ministers is willing to have his salary reduced, much less the smaller fry outside the House. Unless money is forthcoming from some other source it is useless to ask Government to give concessions. You must carry on the nation building departments. The public health department must be carried on and you cannot afford to retard education. If you cannot give more money in the hands of Government, you are wasting your time in this House and the time of Honourable Members opposite by asking for this concession. I will not say that the Honourable Financial Commissioner is not sincere and that he does not wish to reduce the *abiana*. A man who has been working for the last thirty years among the zamindars must have sympathy with them, but the fact is that his hands are as much tied as are the hands of the honourable members of this House. So the question is, where is the Government to get money from, unless it sells all *kothis*, bungalows and offices? The only thing is that if the honourable members want to press this resolution they must make up their minds that they will try to reduce the expenditure of Government, and I appeal to Government to try its utmost to reduce its expenditure. There has been an enormous wastage going on in the province. Huge buildings have been built and costly bridges and dams have been constructed which have been washed away by little floods. The idea of floods makes those dams quiver. You will find that the same wastage has been going on in the Hydro-electric Department in the province. Wastage has been going on for years there

4 P.M.

and I am sure if the money had been properly utilised and we had kept sufficient reserve there would have been no difficulty at this time in meeting the demand of these poor zamindars. Please do not say that there is Bolshevism behind this demand. The fact is that the people cannot afford to pay the revenue. It is not because they are Bolsheviks, but the truth is that their pockets are empty, their houses are empty, their jewellery is in the melting pot, and their *asasa* spent in paying revenue. Then Government should not allow the ridiculous position of carrying coal to Newcastle. Wheat is imported into India from Australia and Canada. Government ought to stop it. If Government does not reduce these rates on *chahi* and *barani* land, I am sure there will be trouble. Government does not take heed of warnings because they have plenty of police force and the military and they know how to arrest people and put them in jails. One of the honourable members said that Government can build enough jails and that there is enough money to build jails, but I wonder if they have enough money to keep jailors there. Government must take courage, first, to reduce expenditure, and if they can cut down expenses they will have the whole-hearted support of this House. The next step will be to reduce this exorbitant *abiana*. There was a time when wheat was selling at four or five seers a rupee, now it is selling at twenty seers. How can you expect a man to pay the same revenue now as he paid when wheat was selling at five seers ? As soon as our friends in the Government service found that the cost of living was going up, there was appointed the Lee Commission which doubled their pay. Now the poor people cannot afford to pay the same tax as they paid when wheat was five seers for the rupee, and the Government should therefore reduce the *abiana* and general revenue. In England and other countries they have relief given to the poor. There they have the old age pensions, and the workless are paid 26 or 27 shillings a week to support their families, but in this country our kind Government does not do anything even for the deaf and dumb and for those who have no limbs. So I appeal to them in the name of good Government to reduce the rates or else there will be trouble.

Lala Bhagat Ram [Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana, Non-Muhammadan, Rural] (*Urdu*) : Sir, in the canal areas even under the worst circumstances the lands yield some produce. But this is not true in the case of the *barani* and *chahi* areas. On account of the uncertainties of weather the agricultural produce from these areas has been decreasing for the last so many years. For irrigation purposes the zamindars sank wells. In *doaba* one well for an area comprising 15 or 16 acres was sufficient, but now as bad luck would have it, the water in those wells has decreased. And the very well cannot water even 2 *kanals*. This has adversely affected the irrigation of these areas on account of which land produce has become scanty. According to a *Punjabi* saying—

جیہڑا بیاہ وھدا ڈانا بذدا

these people who really deserve help and whose case is very pitiable have not been granted any concessions in the land revenue. The lands that were once entered in the revenue papers as *chahi* continue to be regarded as *chahi*, and pay land revenue as such although from long they have ceased to remain

[Lala Bhagat Ram.]
as such on account of the fall of water level in the wells. In veiw of this fact I request the Government to accept the resolution now before the House.

Chaudhri Shah Muhammad [Sheikhupura, Muhammadan, Rural], (*Urdu*) : Sir, the defects in the wording of the resolution have now been removed and I rise to support it as it at present stands. My honourable friend, Lala Bhagat Ram, has rightly said that the Government have granted concessions to the opulent landlords of the canal areas who possess large tracts of land and not to the indigent zamindars of the *barani* and *chahi* areas whose holdings are very small. This preferential treatment has started dissatisfaction amongst the people residing in such areas. In the interests of the country and its administration I request the Government to do something for their relief.

Then, it has been rightly pointed out by the honourable mover of the resolution that on account of the fragmentation of the holdings the zamindars of the *barani* and *chahi* areas have become very poor and their income from land is too small and too disproportionate to the number of those who depend upon them for support. They cannot make both the ends meet. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that something should be done to help them in their distressing circumstances. I think if some concessions are granted in the districts like Ambala, Hoshiarpur and Jullundur, it will not affect the Government finance too much. By granting such concessions as are demanded the dissatisfaction now being shown in these areas will end.

As regards the speech made by my honourable friend Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq, although it was a bit digressive, I am quite at one with him in saying that without money administration cannot run smoothly. I also agree with him in saying that honourable members every now and then put forth new demands for reductions in *abiana* and land revenue but never come forward with suggestions likely to ameliorate the present distressing conditions. With these few words I strongly support the resolution moved by my honourable friend Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan.

Mr. H. Calvert (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, may I know what the resolution is ? We are discussing the resolution as read out in the vernacular. The resolution now being discussed has not been given notice to the members of this House. The discussion has been referring to the east of the province and to *barani* lands. There is no rice on *barani* lands. The concession was confined solely to cotton and rice. There is no *barani* rice at all. (*A voice* : There is rice on *barani* land). The discussion is going on to all kinds of subjects. If, Sir, you rule that the general discussion on the economic situation is relevant, I hope you will also rule that any speeches on Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan's resolution on Friday will be out of order as repeating what has been discussed within six months.

Mr. President : When that point arises, I will give my ruling.

Mr. Calvert : Under the standing orders the proceedings of this Council should be held in English.

Mr. President : Under what standing order ?

Mr. Calvert : Under standing order 58.

Mr. President : But under the same standing order any member of the House can address in English or Urdu as a matter of right, but if he wants to address the House in some vernacular other than Urdu then he has to obtain the permission of the Chair.

Mr. Calvert : The English translation of the resolution is before us and we should like to know what the new resolution is of which we have no copy. The resolution moved should be in English. We have no copy of the new resolution in English before us, and none of us here can understand what the resolution is before the House.

Mr. President : I had the vernacular resolution read out to the House. I think its accurate translation would be—

> "This Council recommends to the Government that similar concessions in land revenue may be granted to the zamindars of *barani* and *chahi* areas as have been granted to the zamindars of *nehri* areas."

Mr. H. Calvert : May I take it that the word "similar" means that the resolution relates to cotton and rice ?

Mr. President : I would leave the honourable member himself to interpret. But what I gather to be the sense of the resolution is clearly this : certain concessions have been shown by Government to zamindars of the *nehri* areas and so some concessions might also be shown to zamindars of *barani* and *chahi* areas. It is not in so many words said expressly that exactly identical concessions should be shown. There is absolutely nothing in the original Urdu resolution to show that. The obvious object is that certain concessions have been shown to certain classes of zamindars and the resolution says that some concessions might be shown to zamindars of other classes as well.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I must submit that that is not clear from the resolution as handed over to us. I submit that that is not the meaning of the resolution that was handed over to us and on which the Government officials have prepared their speeches. The resolution, as now amended, gives it a much wider scope. I think that my Honourable colleague the Financial Commissioner is correct in bringing to the notice of the Chair that the resolution now being discussed is not the one of which notice was given to the members of this House. If you rule that 'similar' means 'same concessions.'————

Mr. President : No exactly identical concessions.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Then, it widens the scope of the resolution.

Mr. President : Then, what do the honourable members suggest ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : "Same" refers to, "the amount of concession."

Mr. President : It must be admitted whether the Urdu version is taken or the English translation of it, the resolution is not at all clearly worded, and, therefore, the objection of Government is valid to a certain extent. What does the Government suggest ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I suggest that the discussion should be confined to the resolution on the Order Paper, that is, the resolution of which notice has been given and which we came prepared to discuss. I do not think that the substitution of the one word "similar" for the word "same" should be allowed to give members latitude for ranging over the whole course of the economic situation.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Sir, the resolution was sent in Urdu. The translation, as it appears in the resolution moved, is certainly not happy. As a matter of fact the translation is obviously wrong. Even the Urdu resolution is not very happily worded, but the meaning is clear. The Urdu resolution is—

کونسل حکومت سے سفارش کرتی ہے کہ بارانی اور چاہی جو کوؤں سے کی
جاتی ہے—جو علاقہ جات پنجاب میں ہیں—ان کو معاملہ میں رعایت دی جاوے—
جیسا کہ نہری علاقہ والوں کو دی گئی ہے—نرخ گرجانے کی وجہ سے زمیندار وں
کی امداد ہونی چاہئے—

It means 'That this Council recommends to the Government that concessions in revenue be given to *barani* and *chahi* tracts in the Punjab as has been done in the case of canal irrigated land. On account of the fall in prices relief is due to zamindars." That is the translation of the resolution which was sent in by the honourable member for Jullundur to the office of the Secretary of the Council.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : May I know what the Government understood to be the meaning of the resolution ?

Mr. President : They relied simply on the fact that the resolution as translated is meaningless and, therefore, they did not know what was to happen.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : The resolution, as it stands, is absolutely clear. What the resolution seeks is the reduction of land revenue. (*An honourable member* : The resolution which has just been read by Chaudhri Sahib). The resolution was sent in Urdu I understand. It is no fault of the mover of the resolution that it was wrongly translated.

Mr. President : Yes, it was the fault of the translator.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : Moreover, I submit that Government objects to the expression "as has been done in the case of other people, that is, *nehri* land." That is an argument and it should not have found a place in the resolution itself. It is an argument which is being made. What is being suggested is the reduction in the land revenue. The honourable mover would have been perfectly in order in not using those words "as it has been done, etc., etc......" becuase, they are not necessary at all. Therefore, I submit that the spirit and meaning of the resolution is absolutely clear, namely, that there should be a reduction in the land revenue on account of distress prevailing in the country and the Government should meet that case. Supposing no concession is given to *nehri* people, even then, the mover will insist that the land revenue should be reduced because of this distress which is prevailing.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : May I point out that the objection raised by the Government benches is rather late.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No.

Mr. H. Calvert : The honourable member for Amritsar wandered over the whole economic position of the Punjab. We are accustomed to a certain amount of relevancy from the member from Amritsar and I thought that perhaps it will be confined to him. There were four points in the concession, firstly, the concessions were given in the last *kharif* ; secondly, they were confined to cotton and rice ; thirdly, they were confined to a combination of land revenue and *abiana* ; and fourthly, they were subject to certain fixed sums of Rs. 7 and Rs. 8-4-0. These are the four points. If you wish to alter the word " same " into " similar", I think it is only fair to us to ask which of these four points you are going to entertain and which of the four points you are going to abandon. A general debate on the economic position is desirable. But I might call your attention to the fact that on Friday the whole question will come up in a general way on Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan's resolution. There is a general resolution for the reduction of land revenue. It will give an opportunity to honourable members to explore the whole range. But if you wish to allow a discussion on the present resolution we should know which of the four points are going to be retained and which omitted.

Mr. President : In view of the remarks made by the Financial Commissioner, Development, is the honourable member prepared to withdraw the resolution as it stands ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I may point out that we have no objection to the discussion going on on this resolution so long as you rule that if this resolution is pressed to a division, the meaning attached to it would be what we understand by it as the resolution stands on the printed list.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (*Urdu*) : Sir, all this helps me to recall a small anecdote. A gentleman once met another gentleman and told him that he was dead. The other naturally contradicted him and told him that he was not dead for he was personally standing before him. But the first pertinaciously refused to accept his statement saying " how can I believe when an entry to the effect that you are dead has been made in the papers." Similar is the present case. I am telling that the purpose of the resolution is to request the Government to grant concessions in the land revenue to the zamindars of the *barani* and *chahi* areas. But the honourable members refuse to listen to what I say, and obstinately stick to what they appear to understand from the wording of the resolution.

Mr. President : I think the resolution as worded, at least in English is not quite clear. It is vague, if not meaningless, and there is no reason why I should not disallow it even at this stage.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : It may be that everybody in this House did not know what the *Urdu* resolution was, but this means that it would be open to the office to mistranslate any resolution or motion that is sent in to enable you to disallow it when it comes up for discussion.

Mr. President : Had my attention been drawn to the wording of the resolution I would not have allowed it.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Your attention must have been drawn.

Mr. President : No human being is infallible. Sometimes mistakes must go undetected.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : That was not my point. My point is this that in future if any member sends in notices of motions, resolutions or amendments in any one of the languages permitted by the rules and if they are mistranslated by the office, what is to happen ?

Mr. President : Each case will be dealt with as it arises.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I wanted to point out in the beginning that even in the *Urdu* version of the resolution, the word "*verani*" is used which I understand means wild barren land.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : May I just know from the Government members what is the difficulty in their way in replying to this resolution. The resolution, as I understand it, seeks a remission or a reduction in the land revenue, that is all, and if the Government are prepared to do that, then they should say so, and if they are not prepared to do this then they should oppose the resolution. But what is the difficulty that has arisen in their way ?

Mr. President : It has been pointed out by the Financial Commissioner that there are four points in connection with the concession regarding *abiana* on rice and cotton crops. Which of these four points the mover of this resolution has in view with regard to the *chahi* and *barani* lands.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : Unfortunately I have not been able to make myself clear. The resolution seeks reduction in land revenue. There is no question of crops.

Mr. President : The honourable member asks for reduction in land revenue without stating the extent of that reduction. That again leaves the whole thing vague and the resolution is likely to be rejected. A resolution should be in the form of a specific recommendation.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : That will come out in the speeches of the various members as to what is the reduction which will meet the situation. All that is sought in the resolution is that the Government should give an indication of its sympathy with the resolution. We did not want to tie the hands of the Government. Supposing we had put forward this resolution in the form say, that 50 per cent. land revenue should be reduced. That resolution would have, if passed, tied the hands of the Government. We did not want to tie the hands of the Government like that. We wanted only an indication of the sympathy of Government towards those people who do not depend upon canals for their agriculture. We say that there is acute distress in the province and the Government should show its sympathy by reducing the land revenue and I think the resolution is perfectly correct and my learned friend the Honourable Financial Commissioner was not right when he was asking us to say on what crops they wanted the *abiana* to be reduced. This question did not arise.

Mr. President : Will the Leader of the House enlighten the Chair and the House on one point? When did the Government discover that the resolution was meaningless?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : As a matter of fact we thought that he was asking for the same concessions as were—

Mr. President : Did the Honourable Leader of the House read it in that sense?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : There are certain tracts, as Mr. Townsend pointed out, in Attock district which come under the formula which we have devised for irrigated areas. Therefore we thought that probably the honourable member was trying to get the same concessions for *chahi* areas in the Jullundur district. I was personally aware that there was some portion of Attock district which came under that category, and therefore naturally took the resolution in that light.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : You did not know that there was some area in Jullundur which was under similar conditions?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No.

Mr. President : Why did Mr. Townsend call the resolution meaningless?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : I meant that it was meaningless save from the point of view of the Chach area. I admit that the phrase was not perhaps entirely happy.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (*Punjabi*) : I withdraw the resolution, and I will present it in an amended form.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE* COMMITTEE TO AUGMENT PROVINCIAL REVENUES.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana (Muhammadan, Landholders), (*Urdu*) : Sir, I beg to move—

> "This Council recommends to the Government that a mixed committee of officials and non-officials with a majority of elected zamindar (statutory agriculturists) members on it be appointed to discover, examine and report on fresh sources of provincial revenue."

Sir, I hardly feel the necessity of making a long speech over this resolution. The present financial stringency demands that we should think out fresh sources and avenues which may be taxed in order to increase the income of the province. You know that there are a few sources from which the provincial revenue is realised. Now it is well-nigh impossible to make more from these sources. The Government is trying hard to cut down its expenditure as far as possible. At this juncture when our finances are at the lowest ebb it is of utmost importance that a mixed committee of zamindar and non-zamindar members be appointed to discover, examine and report on fresh sources of revenue. This resolution contains nothing

[Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.]
more than a request to this effect. I feel perfectly confident that this resolution will meet with approval and the honourable members of this House will support it whole-heartedly and ungrudgingly.

Mr. President :

> "This Council recommends to the Government that a mixed committee of officials and non-officials with a majority of elected zamindar (statutory agriculturists) members on it be appointed to discover, examine and report on fresh sources of provincial revenue."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) : Sir, one very important point which we cannot overlook is this that our present constitution is in the melting pot. A new Act will come before the House of Parliament. Negotiations are going on in England and in India simultaneously and there is every hope that there will be provincial autonomy and there is every hope that there will be responsibility in the central legislature. We do not know what the Act will be and whether these subjects on which we may propose increase of taxation will be transferred to the central legislature.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : No, the other way. Subjects are going to the transferred from the central to the provincial Governments.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : The honourable member is fresh from a conference with Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and probably he has had some private talk with the Premier and he may be knowing more of it, but even the Government does not know what form the new Act will take. I, therefore, ask why we should fritter away our energies when we do not know whether in a year's time land revenue will go into the hands of the Government of India and whether some other revenue will come into our hands. The fresh sources that you are going to tap might be central subjects in the new constitution. I know the land revenue will not be but other sources might be transferred. What is the use of frittering away our energy and wasting our time when after one year we are to find that those subjects which we tackle to-day are not within our power to tap and have been transferred by the new Act to the central legislature ? This kind of resolution is like saying—

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which in plain English means asking for trouble. We want to reduce expenditure, we want to reduce wastage, but my friend here wants to put more money in the hands of Government by tapping new sources. My honourable friend wants to increase expenses. If he had only wanted a review of the system of taxation in the Punjab that might have had some sense, but he wants to tap fresh sources. He does not say that the present taxation will be reduced. He wants more taxes. That is what it amounts to. If he had recommended that *abiana* should be reduced, that land revenue ought to be reduced, that excise tax ought to be reduced, it would have had some sense but he wants fresh sources to be tapped. His resolution if carried into effect will mean nothing but that the idea of reduction of expenses will be blown away. The Government which ought to be putting their mind, applying their mind, their energies, their intellect in the reduction of expenditure will by this resolution have to try to find time and energy to tax the people of the Punjab. Every Government whether

it is native, home made or whether it is imported from Africa or England wants to pursue the course of least resistance. Why should we allow the officers to come and dig their hands in the pockets of other people, zamindars or lawyers. I think what is in the mind of the mover is this. Probably he thinks that this revenue will fall on the poor city people. I have said that the city people have to live on the people who till land (*interruption*). No doubt about it. You big zamindars live on them, you feed upon these people. It must be so in all agricultural countries. Big fish live on the smaller ones ; whether you are a lawyer or a zamindar your money must come eventually from zamindars. My idea is to impress on this House that if we pass this resolution now, it would mean that Government will increase taxation and you do not know what the hands of the Government may fall on. They may fall on the poor zamindars again and they may say that the Council wants fresh taxation, in other words the Council wants that expenses should not be reduced. If we had any voice during the last four years we could have properly controlled the Government and specially the wastage going on in Government departments. I have heard from Government officers themselves that they never spend their money till November or December. Then comes a warning that if you do not spend the whole of it, the money will go back and then they begin to spend from January or February. Then you will find the expenditure highest during this period.

It is in this period that extra bungalows are built, new lorries are purchased, fresh roads taken up, additional stationery in the shape of ' Independent ' pens, fanciful note papers nicely embossed are got. In fact you find all the money which Government officials have not spent till December begins to flow from the exchequer freely to be spent. If the Government had only been wise to stop this wasteful expenditure I am sure we would not be in the present position of looking for breath, to see if we can save some money here and some money there. If we pass this resolution it would really mean indicating to Government : " We are ready to tap new sources. I am a Punjabi born and bred and fully aware of the possible resources of this province." Does it need an intellect far superior to that of any one who has till now considered the problem to suggest new ways ? The resources of the province have already taxed the eminent financiers of this province, men like Sir John Maynard, after him Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency, our present Governor, Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, and Sir Jogendra Singh. They have all failed to find any new sources. Has anything new occurred in the Punjab which could bring in additional revenue of sufficient amount to the State ? Have the honourable gentlemen here in their possession any new idea which was not present to the minds of those people ? Or is it that the present Finance Member has come upon a new source and my honourable friends have got the cue from him ? I am sure that no Government should embark on new taxation in a period of depression. The effects of depression are as much present in the towns as in the villages. Nay, they are even more for in the case of villages at least, if people refuse to pay taxes they will be still left their cattle, their crops and their agricultural implements. If this were an industrial country like England surely one can understand new sources of revenue arising. Count the mills in the Punjab. They are hardly twenty. I know about them. Many of them are running at a loss. I need just mention that Lala Harkishen Lal was able to purchase a big Bombay

[Sheikh Muhammad Sadiq.]

mill several lakhs less than it would fetch in normal times. That shows the industrial situation in the towns.

As I have said, the new dispensation may result in a re-shuffling of the items of revenue between the central and the provincial governments. It is possible that excise may go; the central revenues and salt may be provincialised ; income-tax may become provincial and land revenue central. No one knows what is going to happen. It will therefore be unwise on the part of this council to fritter away its energies in finding new sources when its attention should be concentrated on the important question of reduction of expenditure. When we have made genuine attempts at reducing the expenditure and when we find that the deficit still continues, then will be the time to consider tapping new sources. But the beginning must be made by laying the axe at the root of the present expenditure. I am aware that we may not be able to reduce by a big amount as regard salaries. Salaries cannot be reduced by half. The utmost that can be cut is from 10 to 15 per cent. under the head of salaries. Something will be saved though not so much as we require for our needs. Yet cut will have to be applied and when all possible curtailment of other expenses have been effected the excess of expenditure over the income will have to be considered and met by tapping new sources. Honourable members may well ask, what could be done if that time comes, if more money has to be found to meet new expenses. I hear, however, from well-informed sources that the Government have been able to present to the House a balanced budget. I do not presume to know by what jugglery of figures they have been able to achieve that. But if that be the case what need is there for new sources of taxation. The resolution only seeks to help the Government to find fresh sources and that in theory shows the readiness of this House for new taxation.

With these words I strongly oppose the resolution on the ground that it is premature and uncalled for.

Mr. Din Muhammad (East and West Central Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) : Sir, unfortunately I do not see eye to eye with the honourable member for Amritsar. It is really unfortunate that we are always opposed to one another but I regret I cannot help it. I have always been of the opinion that there could be no two views as to the necessity and the advisability of appointing a committee like the one proposed by the honurable member for the genral landholders constituency. Every year when we meet for the budget session, we are faced with financial difficulties. If we recommend a new work to be taken in hand, we are met with the plea of financial stringency. If we suggest a reform in any of the beneficent departments, we are always given the same reply that money is not available. If we ask for concessions as were being asked for to-day in the two resolutions that have already been moved, we are told that there is no money available. Under these circumstances, is it not up to us to arrange our household in a business-like manner and even if we are prepared to introduce retrenchment to see whether we can or cannot increases our income ? There may be an item of expenditure which cannot be cut. There may be certain commitments which cannot be disregarded. Under these circumstances, it would be perfectly justifiable on our part to see whether there are any fresh avenues, any fresh sources of income which we can tap. The resolution appears to me to

be perfectly harmless. If it is passed, it does not mean that it excludes or debars any other resolution that may be moved by any member of this House for a retrenchment committee to be constituted. The argument that was employed by the honourable member from Amritsar, I consider, goes against the view he has taken up. It is perfectly true that two years hence we might be on the threshold of complete provincial autonomy. Self-government is progressing with giant strides, but then do you wish to see yourselves insolvent at that time ? We can be solvent only if likewise people we find out means of adding to our income in order to meet those new demands which will be made upon us when we ourselves are entrusted with full self-government. It would be no reply then for us to make that we are already so much embarrassed, we are already so much involved in our old commitments that we cannot at all lend our ear to any new suggestions that may be made. The danger that has been pointed out by my honourable friend is that it is quite possible that the zamindar might escape the burden and that fresh burden might be placed on the urban population only. He says that that is one of the points worthy of consideration. He may be perfectly right in his calculations. It may be prefectly true that the poor camel which has been bearing the burden so far may now prove too old to bear it any further.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I did not say that the zamindars would escape but that the object of the resolution was that the new taxation might fall on the urban people.

Mr. Din Muhammad : It may be perfectly true. The zamindars might have reached the point beyond which they cannot bear. If so, will it not be our duty like loyal citizens, like citizens who want to partake of all the comforts and benefits that the expected constitutional advance would bring us to share its burden also. It cannot be selfish on the part of the zamindars just to ask their urban brethren to share their burden, if they are unable to bear it any further. That is absolutely no argument to be employed against the resolution. We should always be willing to share the burden among ourselves. Perhaps my honourable friend's misgivings were due to that portion of the resolution which asks for the majority of the elected statutory agriculturist zamindars on the committee. It might have given him the impression that if the zamindars were in the majority, they would not decide against themselves and would put the whole burden on the shoulders of the urban people. If that be so, I would most earnestly recommend to the honourable mover just to agree to the deletion of those words and to have a majority of elected members to whatever community they might belong on that committee, so that every available fresh source of revenue might be explored.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana : If you will permit me I may say that I am prepared to accept the suggestion of my honourable friend Mr. Din Muhammad.

Mr. President : I will gladly consider the admissibility of an amendment when it is communicated to me in writing.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders, General) : I fully realise that the finances of the province are in an extremely difficult position. But we are all suffering from the difficulties created by the

[D. B. Raja Narendra Nath,]

financial situation. All classes and communities have been equally affected and I am glad that there is some inclination on the part of some honourable members of the House to amend the wording of the resolution so as to recommend that the selection of members who will sit on the committee should not be confined to a particular class. But nonetheless I am in full agreement with what has fallen from the lips of my honourable friend the member for Amritsar Muhammadan constituency. The question of public taxation is an extremely difficult question and it has been tackled by financial experts in this country at least on two occasions. In the first place we have the report of the Taxation Enquiry Committee and in the second place, we have what is called the Clayton's scheme.

5 P.M.

Both these expert committees or expert bodies have given it as their clear and definite opinion that the sources of taxation in this country are very limited. I do not think that a committee consisting of a majority of elected members of this House will do justice to the subject or to the matter before them. We are not to tinker with our system of taxation and introduce whatever taxes seem to us reasonable. It is a very difficult and complicated question which should be left in the hands of financial experts. As a matter of fact when provincial autonomy comes, it will be open for consideration how far the power of taxation should be left to the whims of the Council, because there is a fear that the Council in future will not contain the necessary number of financial experts which we want to deal with this question in an adequate manner. The situation that has now been created in the country by various circumstances to which I need not allude, will, I hope, be a temporary one. I see in the list of resolutions before me that some members propose to effect retrenchment in expenditure. When that matter comes up it will be dealt with on its merits, but surely we must not resort to fresh taxation in haste. According to the opinion of the Taxation Enquiry Committee, land is the principal source of income in India and it is fully taxed. I have every sympathy with the zamindars' complaint that on account of the fall in prices they are very hard hit. I am myself very hard hit personally. But I do not think we can ignore the other classes. The wealth of the country after all depends upon production and when the produce from our lands falls in price all the classes are equally affected. I find the traders have no business, the lawyers do not get as many briefs as they used to get when the prices were high and the country was in a prosperous condition. Therefore, I think it will be a very difficult matter for any committee to decide what sort of additional taxation should be introduced in the province. If the present conditions show any signs of permanence, and if they continue, as they have for the last, say 12 or 18 months, then, I think we must ultimately resort to retrenchment of expenditure but not to additional taxation. In any case we should not show the cloven foot now ; we ought not to show our incompetence in dealing with our financial matters and thus give a handle to those who want to whittle down the proposals regarding provincial autonomy by suggesting that the power of taxation vested in the provincial councils should not be unlimited as it is sought to be. I therefore suggest to my honourable friend, the member representing the Muhammadan landlords of the province to withdraw the resolution.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan (Sialkot, Muhammadan, Rural): I must confess I have been rather disappointed at the speech of the honourable membr who has just sat down. I am afraid the object of this resolution has not been correctly understood although it is very clearly described in the resolution itself. Even if it had not been described in the resolution itself, a resolution like this simply asking for the appointment of a committee should not have been misunderstood in that way. It has been assumed that the object of the mover is that such a committee should be appointed, and the moment that committee is appointed it should have power to decide what additional taxation should be imposed in the province. Everybody knows that it is not so. A committee is being appointed or rather a request is being made for the appointment of a committee with a certain personnel—with regard to which I have suggested an amendment—to discover, examine and report on fresh sources of provincial revenue. That has been a long existing need and has no direct reference to the present conditions obtaining in the province, although I have no doubt that these conditions, their causes and their effects will also be taken into consideration by any such committee when they make their report. All the arguments that have been advanced against the appointment of such a committee seem to me to indicate the necessity for such a committee. We are about to enter upon a stage of further constitutional Reforms. The question on a large scale has already been investigated and reported upon and we are now at a time when we should have a provincial committee to examine the data that are available with reference to the changes that are likely to come into force shortly. The committee, should, as it were, collect all the material, examine that material and have their reports and views ready for consideration by this House or by any enlarged House which may succeed this House, so that they may decide what further taxation will be necessary and what further taxation will be possible and how they are going to readjust the financial conditions of the province. I do not see why such a demand should be described as a demand to fritter away the energies of this House or a demand that is unnecessary. Apart from any financial stringency that may exist—even if we have no financial stringency the appointment of such a committee would be necessary—any further delay in the appointment of such a committee would only result in delay in formulating the proposals which must be formulated before this House can readjust the finances of the province under the new conditions. That is the only object of this committee. My honourable friend from Amritsar has devoted a great deal of time to show that this committee is unnecessary, because the real remedy is retrenchment of expenditure. Certainly so, but the two things are not inconsistent. Reduce expenditure as much as you like; have another committee for reducing expenditure; but that does not mean that you should not have a committee in order to explore the sources of revenue, in order that under the new conditions in which our province will be placed along with the other provinces, our finances may be solvent and fully able to meet all our needs. It is not necessary to go at length into this question. I submit, it is absolutely necessary that no time should be lost in the appointment of the committee.

As regards the personnel of the committee, I have strong objections to the demand made in the resolution on the paper, namely, that the committee should have a majority of elected zamindar members. I think we

[Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan.]
should be perfectly satisfied if there is a majority of elected members on the committee. There I must say that I was very much disappointed to hear that a committee composed of a majority of elected members of this House will be, if I may put in plain language what was described euphemistically by another honourable member, an incompetent committee. The object of the resolution will be served if my honourable friend is satisfied and the House is satisfied that on this committee there shall be a majority of elected members and if the words, "zamindar (statutory agriculturists)" are omitted. I have already submitted the amendment in writing to the Chair and I hope that the mover of the resolution will accept it.

Mr. President : The amendment is that —

"In line 3 the words "zamindar (statutory agriculturists)" be deleted.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana : I accept the amendment.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : The honourable member cannot accept it now ; it has got to be voted upon by the House.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana : It will be voted, but for my part I say that I accept it.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : May I speak both on the resolution as well as the amendment ? If I speak on the amendment now, will I be entitled to speak again on the resolution afterwards ?

Mr. President : Yes.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Can a member speak separately on the amendment and on the resolution, or must he make his remarks on both at one and the same time ? I think my friend wants to speak on the amendment first and then on the main resolution.

Mr. President : The honourable Pandit can speak on the amendment as well as on the main question.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : He is allowed to make only one speech.

Mr. President : If the main question is laid aside and the amendment alone is before the House, the honourable member may first speak to the amendment and subsequently to the main question.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : That is what I wanted to know myself.

Sir, I oppose both the resolution and the amendment. I shall presently give my reasons for doing so. The resolution as proposed by the honourable mover and as amended by the honourable member representing Sialkot Muhammadans urges the House to accept the appointment of a committee like this, because more money will be needed when further constitutional reforms are introduced in our province. If that is the agrument of the mover and the supporter of the resolution, I submit that this House is utterly

incompetent—I will repeat the words which have been repeated by somebody else—utterly incompetent to make a recommendation to the House which will succeed this House. Why ? It is an accepted fact and I do trust that honourable members will accept this, that the next House will represent a much larger electorate including people who pay less land revenue than the present voters. There would be some people who pay no land revenue at all. Under such circumstances, how can this House which is practically an oligarchical House as it represents only zamindars paying Rs. 25 land revenue and above, find further sources of taxation which will be acceptable to a larger and more democratic House. I fail to understand the argument of my learned friend. Does he contend that the House which will succeed this House and which will be representative of a much larger body of voters will not be able to decide for itself as to what sources of supply to tap to meet the expenditure that will be needed by the new Government and new legislature. This resolution which is before the House gives an indication of the mind of a large body of gentlemen who sit on those benches and shows what would be the fate of people who are going to be taxed if this House elects a committee. It wants a committee with a majority of elected zamindar (statutory agriculturists) members. That is the mentality of this House. (*A voice* : Not of the House). Well, let me say of the author of this resolution who represents a substantial portion of this House. It shows the mentality behind it. (*A voice* : He will withdraw it). Whether he withdraws it or not, the attitude that is responsible for the framing of the resolution is there. It gives an indication that certain zamindars who enjoy certain privileges under the present constitution are to be given the power of discovering fresh sources of supply. If the real object of this resolution is not to meet the present stringency of our finance but to meet certain expenses which will be incurred when the new reforms come into operation, then this House is utterly incompetent. Do we know what subjects will be made over to the provincial government ? Do we know what expenditure the provincial government will have to incur ? You are simply starting on a wild goose chase in making conjectural recommendations which will meet nobody's approval because we do not know actually the amount of expenditure which will be needed by the provincial government. On that ground also I think the arguments advanced by Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan are not convincing.

Then again, if this resolution is really meant to meet the present financial stringency, then I submit the resolution is entirely unnecessary, because we have not been told whether there is a deficit in the budget, whether the budget balances itself or not. So, I say there is nothing for us to go upon. If the budget is a balanced budget, what is the necessity for discovering what sources of income will be essential for us ? I submit, therefore, that at the present moment this committee is entirely unnecessary and uncalled for.

Then the resolution says that the committee shall do—what ?—discover, examine and report on fresh sources of provincial revenue. Well, the honourable members who have supported this resolution should have given some indication as to the sources of revenue which they had in their mind. They should have convinced the House that there are certain

[Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit.]

sources which exist and which have not been tapped. So far as the land revenue is concerned, I do not think that this committee will make a recommendation that there should be an increase in the land revenue. If they do want an increase in the land revenue, then some of the members who are supporting this resolution should have told us that there is a certain section of the House which is in favour of increasing the land revenue on various people who possess lands. That has not been done. Then, what is the other source ? Industries ? Where are the industries in the Punjab which can be taxed ? They should have told us that such and such an industry goes without taxation or does not pay a fair proportion of tax. Then we would have accepted their suggestion that such and such an industry can be taxed. That has not been done. On the other hand the industrial situation in the Punjab, I submit, is such that instead of requiring taxation it ought to be encouraged by bounties which Government should give.

Then there is no source which can be called an industrial source of revenue. With regard to trade, everybody knows that on account of political situation and on account of various other factors such as the world movements, there is a great lull in the trade activities of those people who relied upon trade and commerce as their source of revenue. Everybody knows that everywhere people who had lakhs and lakhs of money are now putting in insolvency petitions, or are unable to meet the expenditure needed for their bare existence. Then, whom are you going to tax ? Are you going to tax those who are in the professions such as lawyers, doctors and engineers ? If you are going to do that, then I submit that you do not know the situation in which a large number of lawyers are at the present moment. (*A voice* : Temporarily). Can you give any indication whether this temporary fall in their income is going to last for three years or four years ? It is an admitted fact, and the income tax returns will bear me out, that a large number of lawyers have greatly suffered on account of this depression. How can they make money when the poor peasant has no money to pay ? How can they make money when the trader has no money to pay ? Is it then the doctor you are going to tax ? Or, is it the engineer who is carrying on his business privately, or is it the Government servant that you are going to tax ? They should have given some indication. According to my reading of the situation I can say very safely that there is no hope of any income or any source of income coming to the State by increased taxation on the people. Where is the new source of income which you want to tax ? Therefore I submit that the resolution is not only uncalled for, but no indication has been given so far by any speaker on the other side that there are sources of supply which should have been tapped and which are not being tapped at the present moment.

Again, I have looked through the various resolutions that are going to be proposed before this House and one resolution relates to retrenchment which stands in the name of various honourable members. The two things are entirely contradictory. Day after day not only now but in the previous sessions of the Council also it has been repeated that there should be retrenchment in the Government expense. If there is going to be retrenchment, then, where is the need for this taxation ? Therefore I submit, with all the

emphasis that I can command, that it would be a sheer waste of time, sheer waste of public funds to appoint any committee whether of elected members or elected zamindars members, and I would oppose the amendment as such because the resolution as it stands should be absolutely clear to everybody.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: I wish to congratulate the mover of this resolution. It indicates that he is alive to two facts, one is the better distribution of the burden and the other is finding funds for the progressive policy which has so far guided the Punjab Government. The critics of this resolution have dwelt on two things. One is that a new constitution is in the making and it would be premature to appoint such a committee to review the whole field of taxation. I do not agree with this view. We are at present faced with two difficulties. Firstly, with the need for money to increase the resources of the province, secondly, to relieve the heavy burden. Are we going to wait for another two years before we take up these problems? Retrenchments are necessary, I agree. They are always necessary in non-essential expenditure. I do not believe that any member of the House wants that the pace of education should be slackened or retarded; I do not believe any member of this House desires that the public health programme should not be carried out; I do not believe for a moment that any member of this House believes that we should not do all we can to promote the industrial development (*A voice*: And agricultural development). Industrial development includes agriculture. If we hold the view that there should be compulsory education for the boys as well as for girls, it means that we should provide funds for them. These funds have to be found. How are they going to be found but by an examination of our resources?

The question which the honourable mover has raised has been engaging the attention not only of the Provincial Government but of the Central Government for a long time. The Indian Taxation Committee was appointed for no other purpose than to discover other sources of revenue. The honourable member, Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit remarked that there were no indications as to what new sources of revenue could be found. It is the main object of this committee to discover what those sources are. If there are such sources, why should they not be tapped in the interests of the province as a whole?

One more point and I have done. The question of provincial revenue was examined by Sir William Clayton who came with the Simon Commission and he indicated provincial excises which could be levied in the interest of the province. I think all the members of this House will agree that if we can get money from provincial excises we should do so. One of the sources which has been tapped is a cess on petrol. The Government of India now levies two annas a gallon on petrol and distributes the proceeds to the provinces for road development. The Punjab Government so far has received ten lakhs from this source. This is one of the sources which can be further developed. Then we all in this House know the difficulties about marketing our wheat. It may be possible to have a provincial excise on wheat which comes from other countries. I have always held, and my connection with the Taxation Enquiry Committee convinced that if we broaden the basis of taxation we can raise all the revenue

[Hon'ble Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

we need for the development of the province and at the same time afford relief to the heavily laden agriculturists in the light of the modern canons of taxation. Not only in the interest of the agriculturist but in the interest of the whole population of the province I consider it extremely desirable that an independent committee should be appointed to examine the sources of taxation with a view to increase our revenue and at the same time to effect better distribution of the burden of taxation.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik [Finance Member]: Sir, it is one of the characteristic features of debates in this House that they take unexpected and in some cases surprising turns. For instance, the debate on this resolution has provoked opposition which certainly surprises me. Then an amendment is moved from a somewhat surprising quarter, and again, somewhat to my surprise, it is accepted without a word by the honourable mover of the resolution.

That amendment again is opposed in the very quarter from which I expected it to receive support. And finally, came the greatest surprise of all to me, that in meeting this resolution, of which I conceived myself to be the member in charge, my thunder was stolen by my colleague on my left who has left me with extremely little to say. I am indebted to my honourable colleague for expressing his views, but I am not sure that they represent the views of the Government as a whole. His intervention in the debate was a surprise to me, and welcome as it was, it has put me in a somewhat awkward position.

Now, Sir, the resolution asks for the appointment of a committee of elected members—I am leaving aside for the moment the amendment—a mixed committee of officials and non-officials, but with a majority of elected members of this House to examine and report on fresh sources of provincial revenue. It has been assumed throughout that the object of this committee would be only to explore fresh objects of taxation, and that inasmuch as the mover originally proposed that it should have a majority of zamindars, that is, statutory agriculturists, on it, that their suggestions for taxation will be directed against the urban population. I do not really think that that is the object of the honourable mover. I can see that he desires to explore not only fresh possibilities of taxation but other methods by which the revenue of Government can be raised, possibly by starting new productive projects of various kinds, by opening new canals and so forth. I think it is a little unfair to the honourable mover to imagine that the only object which this committee will have in view will be to discover fresh sources of taxation.

Now, my friend Raja Narendra Nath, whose return to this House I am sure we are all delighted to see (*hear, hear*), has suggested that the committee of this House would not be the best body to examine important fiscal questions of this nature. I think his attitude, if I interpret it correctly, is that this is a task of such technical difficulties that it should be reserved for the careful examination of an expert body. (*Raja Narendra Nath*: Yes). I am just a little doubtful if that is true. I am a little bit of a sceptic myself about experts—I am, I confess, a little bit weary

of being told that this is a thing which only experts can decide, we must have economists here, or we must have lawyers or we must have educationists and so on. I am not so sure that this sort of argument is not carried too far now a days. I am not sure that a lot of questions, which are really matters partly of commonsense and partly of experience, cannot be decided just as well by a body of men in close touch with the conditions which they have to explore and the interests which their decisions will affect as by an expert, or even by a body of experts from outside. That is a reflection of perhaps rather a general nature. But I must confess that I am fortified in this opinion when I consider the report which the fiscal expert submitted to the Simon Commission, the report which at one time appeared to solve with one sweep of the expert's pen all India's financial difficulties, but which on closer examination was found to be an illusion. His estimates of revenue likely to accrue from his schemes have been pronounced by others, just as experienced experts, to be extremely optimistic. The difficulties of imposing various forms of taxation have been minimised and in many cases hardly even referred to at all. That experience, as I said, fortifies me in what perhaps some honourable members would consider as a prejudiced view of the expert. I do not despair of being able to find in this House a committee of practical men who will be prepared to devote time, care and thought, to seeing what can be done to increase the normal revenue of this province. Hitherto that revenue has been found to be of a distinctly inelastic nature ; and even in a good year it does not expand as much as one would like to see it expand. I think it should be possible to devise means by which we should be in a better position than we are now even in a favourable year to proceed with those great schemes of development and material advancement of the province which now have come to stagnation and which at one time, in the years of prosperity, five or six years ago, were making fairly rapid progress. We must also remember that the field for provincial taxation—and naturally this committee would only deal with that field—is a limited one. It is limited by statute and by the devolution rules to comparatively few subjects, as for obvious reasons provincial taxation must not encroach on the field for taxation of an all-India character.

It is interesting in this connection to recall that when the first reformed Council met, a proposal was laid before it very much in the sense of the honourable mover's resolution. In fact, Government actually proposed that a committee should be appointed to examine possible methods of increasing revenue. That proposal was opposed in the first reformed Council, that is to say, in 1921 or 1922 ; and the reasons offered to that opposition were partly the old charge that the administration was too extravagant—a charge which is being repeated in this House to-day—but largely the prospect which the House then had before it of greatly increased revenue from large irrigation projects such as the Sutlej Valley Project, which was then in its infancy, and also the prospect of being able to persuade the Government of India to forego the large contribution of its revenue which in those days the Punjab Government had to pay to it. That prospect has actually become a reality and we are approaching a stage when the Sutlej Valley Project will, I hope, begin to yield a substantial return. Although the first Council took up that attitude, it did later on agree to certain taxation measures of Government after a certain amount of strenuous opposi-

[Hon'ble Sir Henry Craik.]

tion. At an early stage of the reforms, in 1922 I think, Court fees were enhanced and the charges for non-judicial stamps also were increased. Later on Government increased mutation fees and *abiana* on occupiers' rates on certain crops and later still a further increase was made in stamp duties and taxation on motor cars was introduced. At the present moment I understand that certain proposals for taxation are being evolved in the fertile brain of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. I will not give away his secrets and I cannot say what the results of his cogitations will be, but I do think that there are possibilities of enhancing revenue of this province in certain ways, though, as expressed by my friend, the Raja Sahib, the present would not be a very happy moment to introduce any such measure. As Mr. Nanak Chand has said, and I entirely agree with him, all classes and all communities are hit by the present economic depression. It has fallen heaviest perhaps on the zamindar but he is certainly not the only sufferer. The professional classes feel the pinch as well as other classes and on that account and because all classes and all communities are feeling the present economic depression I would not like to be thought to be suggesting that this is a very favourable moment for bringing into actual effect any addition to taxation. That, however, does not imply that we should dismiss from our minds altogether the considerations of the subject. After all the present economic depression cannot last for ever. I sometimes think public men are inclined to be a little pessimistic on that point. The situation is no doubt extremely bad but let us hope that it is not one that is going to be so permanently. Let us hope, as I think we have some grounds for hoping, that we are already past the worst (*hear, hear*), and, I would not say, next year, but at any rate in a comparatively short time we may find ourselves in a considerably stronger financial position—I am speaking of the province as a whole—than we are at present. I would not therefore accept the present economic depression as a sufficient reason in itself for ruling out altogether the consideration—

(*Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram interrupting*).

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Does the honourable member wish to speak ?

Mr. President : Has the honourable member finished his speech ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : He wanted him to speak but not to linger on.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I speak slowly out of consideration for the reporters. The reporters have a much easier task when I speak than when the honourable member from Amritsar speaks (*laughter*). Now, Sir, there is one consideration I would like to put before this House and that is whether it is really necessary to appoint a special committee to consider this important subject when we have in the Standing Finance Committee a body which represents all interests in this House and which has a majority of elected members and which might consider it a slur on its own position if a special committee was appointed for the consideration

of this subject. I suggest that the Standing Finance Committee would be the proper body to consider this subject. This is a point which I think should be carefully considered by the House and it does seem to me to be unnecessary when we have the Standing Finance Committee to appoint another committee at some unnecessary expense.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the amendment. The amendment is to omit the three words " zamindar (statutory agriculturists) " and leave the committee a mixed committee of officials and non-officials with a majority of elected members, the committee to be appointed, I take it, by the Government, for the purpose stated in the resolution. That amendment has my entire support, because I feel that as this House represents all parties and communities and very diverse interests, it will be unfair to decide in advance that the committee should consist of a majority of agriculturists and not to follow the usual practice in appointing committees of this House, namely. that all parties and all interests should have proportionate representation. The honourable mover has himself said that he is willing to accept the amendment but it has been opposed by my friend Mr. Nanak Chand.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : Only for the sake of opposition. I do not think he is serious.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I should have had to oppose the resolution if it had not been the fact that the honourable mover did not insist on the retention of these words. (*Interruption*). I have been exposed to a good many interruptions (*laughter*), but I hope I have not wearied the House. I only want to make it quite clear that while I am prepared to accept the resolution as amended with the omission of these three words I could not have accepted it unless these three words had been omitted. I would like at the same time to assure the honourable members of this House who are statutory agriculturists that Government will take every care to see that if this committee is appointed, their interests receive adequate representation on it. (*Cheers*).

Mr. Din Muhammad : I move—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Resolution under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That the words 'zamindar (statutory agriculturists)' be omitted."

The question is that these words stand part of the resolution.

The motion was last.

Mr. President : The question is that the resolution as amended be adopted.

[Mr. President.]

The Council divided: Ayes: 41, Noes: 16.

AYES.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Gill.
Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Janmeja Singh.
The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.
Mr. P. Marsden.
Sir George Anderson.
Mr. F. H. Puckle.
Mr. L. B. Holland.
Mr. J. B. G. Smith.
Mr. J. W. Hearn.
The Honourable Sir Henry Craik.
The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.
Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl Ilahi.
Mr. S. L. Sale.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.
Honorary Lieutenant Khan Sahib Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Khan Sahib Makhdum Shaikh Muhammad Hasan.
Khan Haibat Khan, Daha.
Chaudhri Nazir Husain.
Khawaja Muhammad Eusoof.
Chaudhri Fakir Husain Khan.
Mian Noor Ahmad Khan.
Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani.
Rai Jagdev Khan, Kharal.
Maulvi Imam-ud-Din.
Mian Nurullah.
Mr. Din Muhammad.
Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan.
Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Pir Akbar Ali.
Chaudhri Ram Sarup.
Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh.
Sardar Sampuran Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sheo Narain Singh.
Second-Lieutenant Sardar Ram Singh.

NOES.

Rai Bahadur Lala Rattan Chand.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.
Lala Nihal Chand, Aggarwal.
Thakur Pancham Chand.
Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.
Mr. P. Mukerji.
Lala Jyoti Prasad.
Lala Gopal Das.
Chaudhri Nathwa Singh.
Lala Bhagat Ram.
Chaudhri Bansi Lal.
Lala Ramji Das.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.

The Council then adjourned till 2 *p.m. on Thursday,* 26*th February* 1931.

385 PLC—600—12-3-31—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION of the 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 26th February 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following members were sworn in :—

Mr. E. L. Crawford (Secretary to Government, Public Werks Department.)

Muhammad Jamal Khan, K. B. Nawab (Baloch Tumandars, Landholders).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Orderlies in Government service.

***31. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules governing the scale on which orderlies are allowed to various classes of public servants ;

(*b*) what is the number of orderlies allowed to each of the Honourable Members and Ministers, Honourable Judges of the High Court, Financial Commissioners, Secretaries to Government, Heads of Departments, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Sessions Judges, and members of the various branches of the Provincial Service ;

(*c*) whether Government has ever ascertained from any of the classes of officers mentioned in (*b*) if they apprehend any serious inconvenience by a reasonable reduction in the number of orderlies allowed them, and, if not, whether Government intends to do so now ;

(*d*) whether Assistant Surgeons are allowed any orderlies, and, if so, how many each ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No. It is a matter of administrative orders.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) No. In 1922 Government reduced the number of orderlies in personal attendance on officers. The question of making still further reductions was again examined at a later date and it was decided that it

[Hon. Sir Henry Craik.]
would not be possible to do so under existing conditions without imparing efficiency.

(*d*) No.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ORDERLIES IN ATTENDANCE UPON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

	Jamadars.	Peons.
Honourable Members and Ministers ..	1	3
Chief Secretary	1	2
Other Secretaries to Government	1	1
Financial Commissioners	1	2
Commissioners	*1	3 *Except Commissioners, Lahore and Multan divisions.
Heads of Departments	1	1
Honourable Chief Justice	1	4
Honourable Judges	1	3
Registrar, High Court	..	3
Deputy Registrar, High Court	..	3
District and Sessions Judges	1	2
Deputy Commissioners	..	3 (Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ghazi Khan, is allowed 1 Jamadar and 2 peons).
Under-Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries to Government	..	2
Extra Assistant Commissioners	..	1
Subordinate Judges	..	1

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE IN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

*32. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the amount spent on travelling allowance in the Public Works Department (*a*) Irrigation Branch and (*b*) Buildings and Roads Branch in 1920-21 and 1928-29, respectively?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The amount spent on travelling allowance in the Irrigation Branch is :—

	Rs.
1920-21	10,11,839
1928-29	16,94,496

REVENUE FROM AND EXPENSES ON CANALS.

*33. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(a) the total amount of working expenses on all classes of canals in 1920-21 and 1928-29, respectively ;

(b) the total amount of revenue, direct and indirect, derived from all classes of canals in 1920-21 and 1928-29, respectively ;

(c) the total area under irrigated crops in 1920-21 and 1928-29, respectively ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) Rs. 1,54,62,920 and Rs. 2,15,91,110, respectively.

(b) Rs. 4,84,32,601 and Rs. 6,13,74,369, respectively.

(c) 9,568,867 and 11,532,589 acres, respectively.

BHAKRA DAM PROJECT.

*34. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the steps taken by the Punjab Government to expedite the Bhakra Dam Project since November 1929 ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Rectangulation surveys of the Bhakra Dam Project area were commenced in 1929-30. These surveys have been continued during 1930-31, and provision has been made in the budget for their continuance in 1931-32. Also the committee of two Superintending Engineers, appointed one each from Bombay and the Punjab, to report on the probable effect of the construction of the Bhakra Project on the Inundation Canals in Sind, sat from 1st April to 12th December 1930. Their report has been received and is under the consideration of the two Governments.

ALIENATION OF STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS' LANDS.

*35. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state what action Government has taken so far to protect statutory agriculturists from the effects of a recent High Court ruling sanctioning as legal the temporary alienation of a statutory agriculturist's land for a term exceeding twenty years for satisfying a money decree ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Government intends introducing an amending Bill during the present session of the Council.

PUNJAB REGULATION OF ACCOUNTS ACT.

*36. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state when the Government intends to put the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act into force ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It has been notified that the Act shall come into force on the 1st July 1931.

DACOITIES IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***37. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) the number of dacoities committed in the Rohtak district in 1930 ;

(*b*) the number of persons killed in the course of these dacoities ;

(*c*) whether the Government has made any enquiry into the causes which account for the outburst of such lawlessness ; if it has, whether any non-official individuals or associations were formally asked to express any opinion on the subject, and if it has not, whether it proposes to institute any such enquiry ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) 39.

(*b*) 9.

(*c*) Government has of course its own sources of information in the shape of reports from its local officers who have discussed the situation with responsible persons in the district. No formal request has been made for the views of non-official individuals and associations, nor is it proposed to make any such request.

DACOITY IN ROHTAK DISTRICT, BIDHLAN AND PAKASMA VILLAGES.

***38. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state (after enquiry if necessary)—

(*a*) whether a young man was shot dead while he was giving chase to dacoits at village Bidhlan in Rohtak district ;

(*b*) whether a woman who was exhorting the village people to fight the dacoits was shot dead at village Pakasma in Rohtak district ;

(*c*) whether the cases of the young man and the woman referred to in (*a*) and (*b*) above were formally brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner by the police or to the notice of Government by any officer ;

(*d*) whether Government intends to mark its recognition of the sacrifice made by the persons referred to in (*c*) ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration.

ADDITIONAL POLICE FOR ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***39. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance, kindly state—

(*a*) whether any proposal for the quartering of a large force of additional police in certain tracts of the Rohtak district has been submitted to Government ;

(*b*) if so, whether Government will give the people of the tracts affected an opportunity for showing cause against the need or soundness of this proposal ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SALARIES OF SERVICES.

***40. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the year in which and the grounds on which the salaries attached to various posts in the various branches of Imperial and Provincial services were increased ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

***41. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state whether, in view of the general and unprecedented economic depression, Government has any intention (*a*) to reduce the salaries where it is competent to do so ; (*b*) to press upon competent authorities the necessity of reducing salaries which it is not empowered to touch itself, and (*c*) until salaries referred to in (*b*) are reduced, to suggest to officers in receipt of such salaries the desirability of a voluntary surrender of a portion of their salaries while this depression lasts ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Not at present, but certain reductions have been made in the pay of temporary appointments made after 1st January 1931. A copy of Government's letter No. 1908 (F/G.), dated 17th January 1931, is laid on the table.

(*b*) Not at present.

(*c*) No.

Government's letter No. 1908 (F./G.), dated 17th January 1931, to all Heads of Departments, Commissioners of Divisions, &c.

I AM directed to inform you that in view of the recent marked fall in prices combined with the grave financial stringency, the Governor in Council acting with his Ministers has decided that, until further orders, no permanent appointments should be made to vacant posts of gazetted or non-gazetted rank previously unfilled without the specific sanction of Government in each case, and that temporary appointments made after the 1st January 1931 against vacancies either in permanent or temporary establishment belonging to provincial or subordinate services, whether previously filled or not, should be made on a rate of pay at least 15 per cent. lower than the minimum of the scale now sanctioned for the post or for permanent posts of similar status. In the case of posts on fixed pay the new appointments should be made at a rate of pay at least 15 per cent. lower than the existing sanctioned rate. For posts on progressive or time scales of pay new appointments should be made on an initial pay at least 15 per cent. below the minimum of the existing scale. The rate and number of increments provided in the sanctioned scale will remain unchanged. Initial pay should be fixed at the nearest rupee after making the deduction prescribed above. I am to request that the following certificate be attached to all establishment bills in future :—

" Certified that the following Government servants were for the first time appointed to the scales of pay shown against their names on or after the 1st January 1931 :—

Name.	Scale of pay.

[Hon. Sir Henry Craik.]

Certified also that with the exception of the Government servants referred to above, all other Government servants for whom pay has been drawn in this bill held appointments on the old time-scales of pay prior to 1st January 1931."

2. I am further to request that the necessity for such temporary establishment as is at present employed in your department should be carefully scrutinized with a view to its reduction wherever possible. This scrutiny should be regarded as a matter requiring your immediate and personal attention.

3. I am to explain that these orders will not apply to police establishment, whether permanent or temporary, enrolled under the Police Act.

RECORDING OF EVIDENCE IN COURTS.

***42. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(a) whether it is not a fact that in most courts the presiding officer records the evidence of witnesses in English, while his Reader records the same evidence in Urdu ;

(b) what is the reason for the adoption of this wasteful procedure ;

(c) if the reason is that the record should be prepared in English for the benefit of some of the Judges of the High Court who do not know Urdu, whether the object in view could not be gained by engaging the necessary staff of translators in the High Court or by insisting on High Court Judges being fully conversant with Urdu ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) and (b) The law requires that the statement of the witness should be read over to him. This necessitates its being recorded in Urdu.

(c) The language of the High Court is English,—*vide* Chief Court's notification No. 316-G., dated the 18th January 1906, which was issued with the sanction of the local Government and has the force of law.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Cannot the presiding officer record the evidence of witnesses in Urdu ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes, he can if he knows Urdu.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

***43. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(a) whether it is not a fact that while between the Inspector-General of civil hospitals and the medical officer in charge of a hospital or dispensary the only supervising officer is the Civil Surgeon, the chain of supervising officers between the Veterinary Assistant and the Chief Superintendent consists of an Inspector, a Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent ;

(b) whether Government does not consider the latter arrangement an expensive administrative anomaly ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (a) The chain does not include both an Inspector and a Deputy Superintendent, but either one or the other.

(b) Does not arise.

RE-ORGANISATION OF DEPARTMENTS.

*44. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable the Member for Finance kindly state whether Government has ever considered the advisability of re-organising certain departments with a view to economy (*a*) by amalgamation or (*b*) by curtailing the number of links in the chain of officers from top to bottom in the same department ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The matter has on many occasions received the careful attention of Government and many measures of reorganisation of the nature referred to have been carried out from time to time. It is not possible within the limits of a reply to a question to give details of all these. But I may cite one example of amalgamation to which effect is about to be given. The Reclamation Department is being amalgamated with the Department of Criminal Tribes with a resultant saving which, it is hoped, will be considerable.

EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ON CANALS.

*45. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) the proportion which the working expenses of each canal bear to the capital invested ;

(*b*) the proportion which the expenses of each canal bear to the gross income derived from the canals ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The figures required vary from year to year. Those for 1929-30 are as follows :—

Name of Canal.	(*a*) Proportion of working expenses to capital invested.	(*b*) Proportion of working expenses to gross income.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Western Jumna	10	43
Sirhind (British)	6	28
Upper Bari Doab	9	28
Lower Bari Doab	8	20
Upper Chenab	6	56
Lower Chenab	14	21
Upper Jhelum	4	76
Lower Jhelum	18	67
Dipalpur	4	51
Eastern	4	135
Pakpattan	4	62

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

Name of Canal.	(a) Proportion of working expenses to capital invested.	(b) Proportion of working expenses to gross income.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Mailsi	7	166
Sidhnai	10	18
Chenab Inundation	19	38
Indus Inundation	25	147
Muzaffargarh Inundation	43	187
Shahpur Inundation	91	202
Ghaggar Inundation	8	302

MAINTENANCE COST OF ROADS.

*46. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state the average cost of maintenance per mile of (a) metalled and (b) unmetalled arterial roads ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The actual expenditure on maintenance per mile averaged Rs. 1,563 for metalled and Rs. 283 for unmetalled roads.

ROAD MAINTENANCE BY CONTRACTORS.

*47. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state whether Government has ever considered or consulted any experts about the advisability of handing over public roads to substantial and reliable contractors for maintenance in the interests of economy ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The suggestion has been considered but found to be impracticable, as no expert and reliable agency is available in the province at present.

GANGMEN ON ROADS.

*48. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(a) the number of gangmen employed on any section of a hundred miles of an arterial metalled road ;

(b) whether all these gangmen are kept fully occupied during their employment ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (a) The numbers vary from 50 to 100 depending on the nature of the surface.

(b) Yes.

ESTABLISHMENT AND INCOME IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

*49. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) the proportions which the cost of establishment bears to the total income in the municipalities of Lahore, Amritsar, Sialkot, Rawalpindi, Multan, Bhiwani and Rohtak ;

(*b*) Whether Government has ever thought of fixing a maximum proportion which should not be exceeded by the cost of establishment ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) The income and the cost of establishment of the municipal committees in question are as follows :—

Municipal committee.	Total net income during 1929-30.	Total cost of establishment during 1929-30.	Proportion of (3) to (2).
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Per cent.
Multan	5,93,536	1,38,848	23.3
Sialkot	4,16,742	1,76,671	42.4
Lahore	22,09,737	8,82,146	40
Rawalpindi	4,82,239	1,59,824	33.1
Bhiwani	1,01,340	26,806	26.4
Rohtak	4,95,002	49,143	9.87
Amritsar	22,41,981	8,38,574	37.40

(*b*) Yes, and instructions may shortly be issued.

MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.

*50. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) the progress made by the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme ;

(*b*) the date by which, having regard to the pace of progress during the last twelve months, the tunnel is expected to be ready ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) The progress made is satisfactory. As for details the attention of the honourable member is invited to the Memorandum Part II of Budget for the Major Head 58—Capital Expenditure on Hydro-Electric Schemes (Transferred) which gives a description of how the work on the Mandi Scheme is progressing.

(*b*) The completion of the tunnel is anticipated on the 31st October, 1932.

AMRITSAR-NAROWAL AND ROHTAK-GOHANA-PANIPAT RAILWAYS.

***51. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(a) the total amount which the Punjab Government has to pay to the Railway Board as guarantee money in respect of the Amritsar-Narowal and Rohtak-Gohana-Panipat Railways;

(b) whether any branch line has been undertaken by the Railway Board in the Punjab during the current financial year?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Government have been advised by the Agent, North-Western Railway, as follows :—

(a) No guarantee has to be paid by the Punjab Government to the Railway Board in respect of Amritsar-Narowal and Rohtak-Gohana Railways;

(b) No branch line has been undertaken in the Punjab during the current financial year (1930-31).

ROHTAK WATER-WORKS.

***52. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state the date by which Rohtak Water-Works are expected to be completed ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : The scheme will be completed before the end of March, 1931.

TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***53. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Rawalpindi division—

(a) the number of new appointments of teachers made in Government schools on the recommendation of the present Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, during the period from 1st June 1929 to 31st December 1930;

(b) the number of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims among these newly appointed teachers;

(c) how many of the new teachers belonged to districts outside the Rawalpindi division ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon :

	Attock.	Shahpur.	Mianwali.	Jhelum.	Rawalpindi.
(a)	3	4	2	2	1
(b) Hindus	2	2	1	1	..
Muslims	..	2	1	1	..
Sikhs	1	..	..	..	1

(c) Three.

CLERKS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*54. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Rawalpindi division—

(a) the number of new appointments of clerks made in Government schools by or on the recommendation of the present Inspector of schools, Rawalpindi division, during the period from 1st June 1929 to 31st December 1930 ;

(b) the number of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims among these newly appointed clerks ;

(c) how many of these new clerks had received no training in the post-matriculation class ;

(d) how many of these new clerks belonged to districts outside the Rawalpindi division ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (a) Two.

(b) One Hindu and one Sikh.

(c) Neither of these has received that training.

(d) One.

CLERKS UNDER INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

*55. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) the number of matriculate Muslims vernacular clerks working in the offices subordinate to the Inspector of schools, Rawalpindi division ;

(b) the reasons why they have not been considered for promotion to the next higher grade if and when opportunities have arisen ;

(c) the number of Hindu or Sikh clerks who have been appointed directly from outside in the higher grade of English clerks in preference to the Muslim matriculates already working as vernacular clerks.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : The requisite information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*56. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the head clerk, second clerk and stenographer in the office of the Inspector of schools, Rawalpindi division, are all Hindus ;

(b) whether it is a fact that all cases relating to the appointment, promotion and transfer of teachers and clerks in the division are dealt with by these three clerks in the office ;

(c) whether the Muslim Deputy Inspector is consulted when appointments, promotions and transfers are ordered or proposed ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The Inspector is responsible for all orders passed by him. It is for him to decide in each case as to what assistance he expects from his subordinates.

MUSLIM TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***57. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Rawalpindi division—

(*a*) the number of Muslim teachers working in Government schools who are still on probation ;

(*b*) the number of such Muslim teachers in whose case the period of probation has already exceeded one year ;

(*c*) the reasons why the teachers shown in (*b*) above have not yet been confirmed ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon :

	Shahpur.	Jhelum.	Gujrat.	Attock.
(*a*)	14	5	2	4
(*b*)	13	3	2	4

(*c*) Government are making enquiries on the subject.

MUSLIM TEACHERS IN BOARD SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***58. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education, kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Muslim teachers working in Board High or A.-V. Middle schools in the Rawalpindi division who are still on probation ;

(*b*) the number of such Muslim teachers in whose case the period of probation has already exceeded one year ;

(*c*) the reasons why the teachers shown in (*b*) above have not yet been confirmed ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

MUSLIM TEACHERS AND INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***59. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of cases in the Rawalpindi division in which the Inspector of schools has refused to confirm a Muslim headmaster recommended by a district board ;

(*b*) the number of cases in which the Inspector of schools has refused to grant increment or grade promotion to a Muslim teacher recommended by the district board or the District Inspector ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) One.

(*b*) Two.

MUSLIM TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT AND BOARD SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***60. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Muslim B.A., B.T., or B.A., S. A.-V. teachers in Government or Board secondary schools in the Rawalpindi division who are yet working in Rs. 55—3—70 grade ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : There are three Muslims with B. T. or S. A.-V. qualifications who are in Government service and are drawing pay in the grade mentioned in the question.

There is also another Muslim similarly situated in Board service in the Shahpur district. This teacher although possessing the S. A.-V. qualification was prepared to accept a post on Rs. 55 a month as a temporary measure. It is scaracely feasible either for Government or for the Boards to provide posts on Rs. 80 or more for all men in the market with B. T. or S. A.-V. qualifications.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AMONG PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

16. Chaudhri Ram Sarup : Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state the number of Hindu and Sikh public prosecutors, respectively and the number of statutory agriculturists among them ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It is presumed that by the term "statutory agriculturists" the honourable member means a member of a notified agricultural tribe. The number of Hindu and Sikh public prosecutors in the permanent cadre as it stood on 9th February 1931, was as follows :—

Hindus	.. 15, of whom one is a member of a notified agricultural tribe.
Sikhs	.. 3, none of whom is a member of a notified agricultural tribe.

PROSECUTIONS FOR REVOLUTIONARY CRIMES.

17. Chaudhri Ram Sarup : Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly lay on the table of the House a statement showing the names, religions, district and tribe of the persons prosecuted for revolutionary crimes in the Punjab up to the 31st January 1931 ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I regret that the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member as soon as ready.

ZILLADARS.

18. Chaudhri Ram Sarup : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the number, religion and tribe of the persons appointed as zilladars (*a*) by direct recruitment and (*b*) by promotion in 1930 ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: The information asked for is as follows :—

Candidate Zilladars	Direct recruitment.	18	Muslim ..	9	Agriculturist ..	7
					Non-Agriculturist ..	2
			Hindu ..	4	Agriculturist ..	Nil
					Non-Agriculturist ..	4
			Sikh ..	5	Agriculturist ..	5
					Non-Agriculturist ..	Nil
	Promotion ..	23	Muslim ..	9	Agriculturist ..	7
					Non-Agriculturist ..	2
			Hindu ..	11	Agriculturist ..	1
					Non-Agriculturist ..	10
			Sikh ..	3	Agriculturist ..	2
					Non-Agriculturist ..	1
Zilladars, 2nd grade	Direct recruitment.	3	Muslim ..	1	Agriculturist ..	1
					Non-Agriculturist ..	Nil
			Hindu ..	Nil	Agriculturist ..	Nil
					Non-Agriculturist ..	Nil
			Sikh ..	2	Agriculturist ..	Nil
					Non-Agriculturist ..	2
	Promotion ..	4	Muslim ..	3	Agriculturist ..	3
					Non-Agriculturist ..	Nil
			Hindu ..	Nil	Agriculturist ..	Nil
					Non-Agriculturist ..	Nil
			Sikh ..	1	Agriculturist ..	1
					Non-Agriculturist ..	Nil

AVERAGE WAGES IN RURAL AREAS.

19. Chaudhri Ram Sarup: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the average wages for the following classes of men in 1909 and 1930, respectively, in rural areas in the Punjab :—

(*a*) agricultural labourers,

(*b*) carpenters, and

(*c*) blacksmiths ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: A Statement showing rural wages in each district of the Punjab as ascertained at the Census of 1909 and 1927 of (*a*) agricultural labourers, (*b*) carpenters and (*c*) blacksmiths is attached. The last quinquennial wage census was taken in December 1927, and the next will be taken in 1932 ; figures for 1930 are not available.

STATEMENT SHOWING DAILY WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, CARPENTERS AND BLACKSMITHS IN 1909 AND 1927.

(In annas.)

Division.	District.	Agricultural labourers.		Carpenters.		Blacksmiths.	
		1909.	1927.	1909.	1927.	1909.	1927.
Ambala.	Hissar ..	5 to 6	5½ to 10½	8 to 12	16 to 24	..	..
	Rohtak ..	3½	4½ to 8½	7 to 8	16 to 20	..	..
	Gurgaon ..	2 to 3	3½ to 5½	6 to 8	16 to 20	4	..
	Karnal ..	3¼ to 4	5½ to 8½	8	16 to 21	..	..
	Ambala ..	4	7½ to 11½	8 to 12	16 to 24	10	16 to 21
	Simla ..	..	(a)	7	(b)	..	(b)
Jullundur.	Kangra ..	3 to 4	5½ to 8½	6 to 10½	12 to 16	6	..
	Hoshiarpur ..	4 to 6	7½ to 12½	10 to 11	16 to 24	..	14 to 24
	Jullundur ..	5 to 6½	9½ to 12½	12 to 14	20 to 24	..	..
	Ludhiana ..	5 to 8	9½ to 13½	12	22 to 31	12	22 to 32
	Ferozepore ..	6 to 8	7½ to 11½	12 to 16	20 to 32	12 to 16	22 to 28
Lahore.	Lahore ..	5 to 6	7½ to 12½	12 to 16	20 to 32	16	..
	Amritsar ..	6	9½ to 12½	10 to 12	20 to 32	..	..
	Gurdaspur ..	5 to 6	7½ to 12½	10 to 12	20 to 32	10	..
	Sialkot ..	5 to 6½	7½ to 12½	8 to 12	18 to 24	..	..
	Gujranwala ..	6 to 8	11½ to 12½	10 to 16	24 to 32	..	..
	Sheikhupura ..	..	11½ to 16½	..	24 to 36	..	..
Rawalpindi.	Gujrat ..	6	7½ to 12½	12 to 14	20 to 32	..	..
	Shahpur ..	6 to 8	9½ to 16½	12 to 14	24 to 36	..	..
	Jhelum ..	4½ to 6	7½ to 10½	10 to 12	20 to 32	..	..
	Rawalpindi ..	4	7½ to 9½	8 to 12	24 to 32	8	..
	Attock ..	4 to 5	7½ to 10½	8 to 12	16 to 24	8 to 12	..
	Mianwali ..	4 to 5	7½ to 10½	16	20 to 32	8	..
Multan.	Montgomery ..	5 to 8	7½ to 12½	16	24 to 36	..	..
	Lyallpur ..	6 to 8	9½ to 16½	12 to 20	30 to 33	..	..
	Jhang ..	6 to 8	7½ to 16½	16	24 to 36	..	..
	Multan ..	4 to 6	5½ to 12½	10 to 12	16 to 32	..	16 to 28
	Muzaffargarh	4 to 6¼	4½ to 8½	10 to 16	16 to 27	..	..
	Dera Ghazi Khan.	4 to 5	3½ to 8½	12	16 to 20	..	..

(a) No daily wages are paid in rural areas in this district. Unskilled labour is provided by the agriculturists themselves who help each other in return for meals.

(b) No daily wages are paid in this district. Artisens employed receive meals and lump sum on completion of the work.

HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURIST REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES.

20. Chaudhri Ram Sarup: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(a) the number of Hindu clerks in the office of the Commissioner of Ambala and the number of statutory agriculturists among them;

(b) the number of Hindu clerks in the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests and how many of them are statutory agriculturists

[Chaudhri Ram Sarup.]

(c) the number of Hindu Forest Extra Assistant Conservators and forest rangers and how many of them are statutory agriculturists ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) The number of Hindu clerks in the office of the Commissioner, Ambala division, is 7, one of whom is a member of an agricultural tribe.

(b) The number of Hindu clerks including superintendents in the combined office of the Chief Conservator of Forests and the three Conservators is 12, of whom 5 are members of agricultural tribes.

(c) The number of Hindu Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests and Forest Rangers is 16 and 28, respectively, of whom 2 and 13, respectively, are members of agricultural tribes.

MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR.

21. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah Gilani : Will the Honourable Minister for Education please lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) the total strength of the teaching staff of the Medical School, Amritsar, and how many of them are Hindus, Sikhs, Muhammadans and others respectively ;

(ii) the names of the Principals who have been in charge of the school during the last five years with date of tenure of their office ;

(iii) results of the school during the last five years stating—

(a) total number of candidates, Muslims and non-Muslims appearing in each year's test ;

(b) total number passed, Muslims and non-Muslims, respectively ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The information is being collected and will be furnished to the honourable member when ready.

PROMOTIONS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

22. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah Gilani : With reference to question No. 2616 by Chaudhri Afzal Haq in the Council on the 2nd March 1926 and of the reply thereto, will the Chief Secretary please state—

(a) whether in making promotions in the departments preference is invariably shown by the heads of departments to officials who are known to be strictly honest ;

(b) if so, will the Government please lay on the table a list showing promotions made by the civil as well as in judicial departments of the Punjab in the clerical staff during the year 1930 for officials with pay Rs. 75 and above with comments as to their honesty against each promotion ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government regret that they are unable to undertake the collection of the information asked for by the honourable member, as the labour and cost involved would be out of proportion to the value of the information.

LICENCE FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION, MULTAN DISTRICT.

23. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah Gilani : Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) who was in charge of the office of Deputy Commissioner, Multan, from 25th November 1930 to 3rd December 1930 ;

(*b*) how many new licenses of arms and ammunitions were sanctioned by the District Magistrate, Multan, during the above period and what were the names, status and position of those new licensees ;

(*c*) a list showing names with occupation and social status of those new licensees with description of arms for which the licenses were granted may be laid on the table ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that some of the new licensees were related to the then Deputy Commissioner ; if so, what were their names and status ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

MUSLIM ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, MULTAN DIVISION.

24. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah Gilani : Will the Chief Secretary please lay on the table a list showing the names of incumbents who have been in charge of the posts of Additional District Magistrates in the Multan division from the date of its creation to date ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : A list is laid on the table.

Name.	*Station.*
S. Balwant Singh Nalwa	Multan.
Lala Vidya Dhar	Montgomery.
Rai Sahib Pandit Sri Kishen	Montgomery.
Lala Bishambar Dyal Singh	Montgomery.
Lala Chanan Mal	Lyallpur.

VETERINARY COLLEGE, LAHORE—ADMISSIONS.

25. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state the number of students admitted to

[R. B. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]
the Veterinary College at Lahore in 1929 and 1930, respectively, as also the number of statutory agriculturists among them?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: Out of 50 and 16 students selected by the Principal in 1929 and 1930, 14 and 5, respectively, were members of agricultural tribes. In addition there were a number of students nominated by the Government of India, Army Department, and by Indian States.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR AND ENGINEERING SCHOOL, RASUL—ADMISSIONS.

26. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state the number of students admitted to the Agricultural College at Lyallpur and to the Engineering School at Rasul in 1928, 1929 and 1930, respectively, classifying them as Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs and sub-dividing them under each of these three heads as statutory agriculturists and others?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: Statements showing the number of students admitted to the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur, and to the Government School of Engineering at Rasul during each of the years 1928, 1929 and 1930, classifying them in the manner desired by the honourable member are laid on the table:—

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMMUNITY-WISE ADMITTED TO THE PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR IN THE YEARS 1928, 1929 AND 1930 AND ALSO THE NUMBER OF AGRICULTURISTS THEREIN.

A.—Agriculturists.
N.A.—Non-Agriculturists.
T.—Total.

Year.	Hindus.			Muhammadans.			Sikhs.			Others.			Total.
	A.	NA.	T.	A.	NA.	T.	A.	NA.	T.	A.	NA.	T.	
1928	12	14	26	28	..	28	21	7	28	..	2		84
1929	14	4	18	19	2	21	11	6	17	..	1	1	57
1930	12	15	27	39	1	40	23	6	29	..	..	..	96

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED IN THE PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR, DURING 1928, 1929 AND 1930 UNDER THE CLASSIFICATION OF HINDUS, MUHAMMADANS AND SIKHS, SPECIFYING WHETHER THEY WERE STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AND OTHERS.

Community.	Agriculturists or Non-Agriculturists.	1928.				1929.				1930.			
		I year.	III year.	M. Sc.	Total.	I year.	III year.	M. Sc.	Total.	I year.	III year.	M. Sc.	Total.
Hindu ..	Agriculturists ..	12	..	..	12	13	1	..	14	12	..	..	12
	Non-Agriculturists.	12	..	2	14	3	1	..	4	12	2	1	15
	Total ..	24	..	2	26	16	2	..	18	24	2	1	27
Muhammadans	Agriculturists ..	28	..	..	28	19	..	..	19	37	2	..	39
	Non-Agriculturists.	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	1
	Total ..	28	..	..	28	21	..	..	21	38	2	..	40
Sikhs ..	Agriculturists ..	9	11	1	21	6	5	..	11	6	17	..	23
	Non-Agriculturists.	6	1	..	7	2	4	..	6	2	4	..	6
	Total ..	15	12	1	28	8	9	..	17	8	21	..	29
Others ..	Agriculturists ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Non-Agriculturists.	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	GRAND TOTAL	69	12	3	84	46	11	..	57	70	25	1	96

[Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AT RASUL, IN THE YEAR 1928 1929 AND 1930.

Year.	Hindus.			Muhammadans.			Sikhs.			
	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.	Total.	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.	Total.	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.	Total.	Total.
1928	2	24	26	9	1	10	11	3	14	50
1929	6	25	31	10	1	11	10	5	15	57
1930	5	17	22	14	3	17	4	6	10	49

VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS AND AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANTS.

27. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state the number of Veterinary assistant surgeons and Agricultural assistants recruited in 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930, respectively, classifying them as Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs and sub-dividing them under each of the three groups as statutory agriculturists and others?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RECRUITMENT OF VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS AND AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANTS IN THE YEARS 1927, 1928, 1929 AND 1930.

Year.	Hindus.		Muhammadans.		Sikhs.	
	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.
	Veterinary assistant surgeons.					
1927	1	3	2	..	2	..
1928	2	4	3	2	3	..
1929	3	4	2	1	2	1
1930	3	11	7	..	1	..
	Agricultural assistants.					
1927	3	5	13	..	23	..
1928	..	7	11	..	7	2
1929	1	4	6	..	18	2
1930	3	1	3	..	9	1

GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS, VETERINARY COLLEGE.

28. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state the names of the students who have been awarded Government (non-military) scholarships in the Veterinary College in the past two years and those among them who are statutory agriculturists?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The required information will be found laid on the table :—

1929.

(1) Gurbakhsh Singh	..	..	Agriculturist.
(2) Narinjan Singh ..	..	..	..
(3) Mehar Singh ..	..	..	..
(4) Ghulam Rasul ..	..	..	Agriculturist.
(5) Chet Ram ..	..	..	Ditto.
(6) Tara Singh ..	..	..	..
(7) Raghunath Singh	..	..	Agriculturist.
(8) Bahadur Singh ..	..	..	..
(9) Ram Lal ..	..	..	..
(10) Gurdas Mal ..	..	..	..
(11) Kali Charan Kishore	..	..	..
(12) Amar Nath Verma	..	..	..
(13) Abdus Salam ..	..	..	Agriculturist.
(14) Ranbir Singh ..	..	..	Ditto.
(15) Vishno Datt ..	..	..	Ditto.
(16) Ikram Ullah Khan	..	..	Ditto.

1930.

(1) Muhammad Niwaz Khan	..	..	..
(2) Mushtaq Ahmad	..	..	Agriculturist.
(3) Lachhman Dass ..	..	..	..
(4) Abdur Rahim Khan	..	..	Agriculturist.
(5) Tasaduq Hussain	..	..	..
(6) Ramzan Ali ..	..	..	Agriculturist.
(7) Ghulam Rasul ..	..	..	Ditto.
(8) J. S. Chatwal ..	..	..	Ditto.
(9) Chet Ram ..	..	..	Ditto.
(10) Hari Ram Joshi	..	..	..
(11) Autar Singh ..	..	..	Agriculturist.
(12) Abdus Salam ..	..	..	Ditto.
(13) Karam Chand ..	..	..	..
(14) Trilok Nath Verma	..	..	..
(15) Daulat Singh ..	..	..	..

RECRUITMENT OF SUB-JUDGES.

29. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state the names of the individuals who have been recruited so far as Sub-Judges as a result of the qualifying test instituted by Government in 1928 classifying them as statutory agriculturists and others ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : It is not the practice of Government to supply names. Thirty-eight candidates have been recruited since the examination was started in 1928 of whom 13 are members of notified agricultural tribes.

SUB-JUDGES.

30. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Aggarwals who are serving as Sub-Judges at present ;

(*b*) the number of Aggarwals recruited as Sub-Judges in 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930, respectively ;

(*c*) the proportion which the total of Aggarwals serving as Sub-Judges (permanent or officiating) bears to the total strength of the cadre ;

(*d*) the proportion which the population of Aggarwals bears to the (*i*) total population of the province and (*ii*) total population of Hindus ;

(*e*) the number of Hindu Jats, Hindu Rajputs, Dogras, Ahirs and Hindu Gujars serving as Sub-Judges (officiating or permanent) ;

(*f*) the proportion which the total population of the tribes mentioned in (*e*) above bears to the population of Aggarwals ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (*a*) Nineteen.

(*b*) One in 1926.

Nil in 1927.

Three in 1928.

One in 1929.

One in 1930.

(*c*) Eleven : 100.

(*d*) The honourable member is referred to the Census Report of 1921.

(*e*) Four.

(*f*) As in (*d*) above.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION *RE* PREPARATION OF VOTERS' LISTS.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (Jullundur, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*) : Sir, I beg to move that—

> "This Council recommends to the Government to frame such rules for the guidance of patwaris and other officials responsible for the preparation of voters' lists as to make it obligatory for them to enter in the lists all those persons who are entitled to vote."

Sir, my object in moving this resolution is, as is clear from the resolution, that Government should take such steps as would ensure the inclusion in the list of voters the names of all such persons who are entitled to vote for the Council or for the district boards. At present the patwaris and other officials entrusted with this work prepare the lists very carelessly and while including in these lists the names of the fresh voters, the names of those persons are sometimes omitted who had voted in the previous elections. It will interest the members to know that my name was also omitted from the lists prepared for the last elections to the district board of Jullundur although I have been its member during the last term. I had to make a special effort to have my name included in the lists. I have been told that the name of my friend Sardar Mukand Singh was also left out from the list of voters for the Lyallpur district board and for that reason he could not stand as a candidate for election this time although he had been a member during the last term. He came to know of this omission at a time when it was not possible for him to have his name included in the list. This is about persons who are very well-known. You can guess for yourself how many others who are not of any note, but who are, all the same, entitled to vote must always have been deprived of their right of voting through the carelessness of the officials preparing these lists. I think I will not be mistaken if I say that about 25 per cent. of those, who are entitled to vote on the ground of paying land revenue, are left out and about those, who can claim this right of voting on the ground of being military pensioners or being in receipt of certain amount as salaries or being in possession of landed property other than lands, I am sure that cent. per cent. of these persons are not included in the lists of voters. I say I am sure, because I know that the patwaris fail to enter even the names of all such persons in such lists whose right is patent from the revenue records in their possession and in the circumstances one can be sure that they never take the trouble of ascertaining the right of others. Government in reply may say that those persons who are left out can apply to the higher authorities and on showing that they have a right to vote, can have their names entered in such lists within the time prescribed for so doing. That is quite true, but the difficulty is that many of these persons have neither time nor money to spend to have their right recognised. According to the rules in force on the subject one has to apply for this purpose on a judicial paper affixing one rupee stamp on it and then he has to appear two or three times before the officer appointed to consider such applications. This procedure surely costs a good deal of time and money which these persons can ill afford to spend. It is on these grounds that I suggest that officials entrusted to do this work should be compelled to do their duty properly by rules and standing orders, and if any of them is found careless he should be fined or punished in some other way. This resolution is very simple and the request it contains is very moderate. I hope that it will be accepted without any opposition.

Mr. President :

"This Council recommends to the Government to frame such rules for the guidance of patwaris and other officials responsible for the preparation of voters' lists as to make it obligatory for them to enter in the lists all those persons who are entitled to vote."

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) (*Urdu*): Sir, the resolution moved by the honourable member to-day is as vague and ambiguous as was his resolution moved in this House yesterday. It is not clear from the wording of the resolution what exactly he means, and which class of voters he has in view. In his speech in support of the resolution he of course made a passing reference to the voters of the Legislative Council, but he laid particular stress on the right of voters of the district board constituencies. As regards the voters for the Council it will perhaps interest the honourable mover if I inform him, through you, Sir, that very clear and very exhaustive instructions were issued last time to the officials concerned on the subject, based on the rules framed under the Government of India Act. These instructions comprise 32 paragraphs and if the honourable member will take the trouble of reading them all, I am sure all his doubts in the matter would be dispelled. As I have said these instructions are very exhaustive and cover all the ground and go to meet all the complaints the honourable mover has made. I may also inform the House that these instructions were issued in English as well as in Urdu. I shall be glad to read them to the House if I am asked to do so but they are pretty long and it will take some time to read even the more important extracts from them.

Mr. Din Muhammad: We shall be glad if they are read here.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Under Regulation 2 of the Regulations for the preparation and publication of electoral rolls it is the duty of the Deputy Commissioner to prepare an electoral roll for each general constituency or part of a general constituency included within his jurisdiction. The Deputy Commissioner performs that duty through the District Electoral Officer (generally the Revenue Assistant) and the revenue staff of the district. In this connection attention is invited to the instructions published. I will be glad to lay a copy of those instructions on the table, if desired. If I read them out they will take up a considerable time of the House. These instructions cover 19 printed pages. I will merely read out extracts or a give a brief resume of those portions which will interest the honourable members. Preliminary electoral rolls in the rural areas, as pointed out by the honourable mover, are prepared by patwaris while moharrirs are appointed for this purpose in urban areas. Detailed instructions for urban areas were also separately issued and a copy of these will be available if the honourable member wants to see them.

In rural areas, the patwaris revise the old rolls after consulting the current mutations register and the remarks column of the *jamabandis*.

Mr. President: May I point out that the honourable member is not speaking to the resolution before the House. The question raised in the resolution is whether there are any rules which make it obligatory for the patwaris to prepare the lists and if they fail in the performance of their duty whether they are punished. That is the resolution, while the honourable member is referring to instructions which do not touch the point in issue.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The resolution reads thus :—

> "This Council recommends to the Government to frame such rules for the guidance of patwaris and other officials responsible for the preparation of voters' lists as to make it obligatory for them to enter in the lists all those persons who are entitled to vote."

Mr. President : The point is that it should be made obligatory for patwaris and others who prepare voters' lists to enter the names of all persons qualified to vote.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Yes, but the patwaris are after all human beings, and they might conceivably leave out certain names inadvertently, without any alternative motives. What the honourable mover was trying to impress upon the House was that they intentionally did so. In such cases it is for those persons to prove that they did so intentionally. If the matter was brought to the notice of Government, and it was proved that the patwari was guilty of deliberate mischief, I can assure the House that the officers concerned will be prepared to take such steps as may be called for, to bring the delinquents to book. He wanted to know, whether we had issued any instructions and rules, and I was trying to point out—

Mr. President : What action is taken if a patwari intentionally omits the name of a person entitled to be registered as a voter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : We could go to the length of dismissing him.

Mr. President : The duty of a patwari as such is not to prepare voters' lists.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : As a matter of fact there are other duties which are not specifically mentioned but which nevertheless the patwari has to perform.

Mr. President : I think that the patwari is a creature of the rules made under the Land Revenue Act.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : There are certain duties which the patwari is bound to do under these rules, but there are others which he is called upon to undertake from time to time, and he is bound to carry them out when ordered by Government to do so. If he fails to do so, he is guilty of delinquency and can be dealt with departmentally. That is what I wish to point out. For instance, he has to do a certain amount of work in the case of census under the Census Act. These rules with regard to the preparation of the electoral rolls were made under the Government of India Act and the instructions which are issued are in accordance with those rules.

I was pointing out that in rural areas the patwaris revise the old rolls after consulting the current mutation registers and the remarks column of the *jamabandies*. The names of those persons who have lost their qualifications or have died are scored out from the old rolls with red ink. As regards new additions, the names of electors who reside in the circle of a patwari and have a complete qualification are entered in a separate statement which is called Statement No. 1. In another statement which is called Statement No. 2, are entered the names of persons who do not ordinarily

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]
reside in the patwari's circle but have either a complete qualification which the patwari has reason to believe will, if added to another qualification of the same class in another circle, will give him the right to vote. So the instructions are elaborate to that extent that they also contemplate inclusion of a voter on the voter's list if he has partial qualifications in one circle and there is reasonable ground for belief that that qualification if augmented by a partial qualification in another circle will give him the right to vote. Patwaris and qanungoes then meet at the headquarters of the tahsil to check their statements and compare them with one another. If a person who is shown as having a partial qualification in Statement No. 2 has any similar qualification in the place of his residence he is entered in Statement No. 1 of the village in which he ordinarily resides and therefore he becomes a voter. Any additional qualification he may possess in other villages are also added. When Statement No. 2 has thus been cleared within the tahsil only the names of those persons remain therein who do not ordinarily reside in the tahsil and have a complete qualification or such incomplete qualification which there is reason to believe, if added to another qualification in another district, will give him the right to vote. From Statement No. 2 submitted by each patwari a consolidated abstract is prepared for every tahsil concerned giving the names and addresses of persons residing in that tahsil with partial or complete qualifications as the case may be. The patwaries again assemble sometime later at the headquarters of the tahsil where, under the supervision of qanungoes, they check the abstracts received from other tahsils and complete the entries in Statement No. 1. To the qualifications of the voters already entered in Statement No. 1, are added the qualifications received from outside tahsils or from other districts. If a partial qualification is received from outside, the patwari looks up his own revenue records, etc., and if he finds that the partial qualification if added to another partial qualification of the same class gives a person residing in his circle a vote, he enters his name in Statement No. 1. Therefore he also comes under the voters' lists of that circle.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Are these instructions given in English ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : They are in English and translated into Urdu.

Similarly, complete qualifications received from outside regarding persons ordinarily residing in the tahsil are entered in Statement No. 1. These statements are checked by the tahsildars and against each entry in the abstract received from outside, the tahsildar or the qanungo makes a note to the effect that the voter has been duly entered in Statement No. 1 of such and such village or that he is not entitled to registration as the case may be. Thus all persons are registered in places where they ordinarily reside.

With regard to urban areas the rolls are prepared by the special staff of muharrirs and supervisiors who are required to go through every street systematically and make enquiries from house to house and door to door and enter all particulars of every elector regarding whom they can secure information. Supervisors are appointed to control and check the work of the muharrirs.

It will be seen that the instructions so far as the preparation of these rolls is concerned, are very elaborate and quite clear and that the District Election Officers keep an eye on the patwaris, qanungoes, muharrirs and other people deputed to prepare these rolls. But there is an additional safeguard as according to the rules, with which the honourable member is no doubt conversant, every voter has got a right to put in an appeal if his name has been left out by the patwaris or the muharrirs. A period is allowed for making such objections and if these objections are made within time, it is incumbent upon the officer in charge to look into the complaints and rectify the mistakes in electoral rolls where necessary. So it rests with the electors themselves to see that they are not intentionally or otherwise left out. It is impossible for Government or anybody to check any omission of names unless the people interested in that area or the person concerned himself comes forward to raise an objection and inform the authorities.

So far as the question of fine or punishment is concerned, as I have already pointed out, Government will be prepared to take action against the patwaris or muharrirs if it is proved that any of them has intentionally omitted the name of any elector. But it is for the people concerned to come forward with specific instances and prove that that act of the patwari was *malafide*.

With regard to district board electoral rolls, I believe similar instructions have been issued by the department concerned, and my friend the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government will probably throw further light on that point. I hope, in view of these observations, that it will not be necessary for the honourable member to press his motion and if he wants any further light thrown upon the subject, I will be glad to show him the instructions and give him any other information which he may desire in regard to the matter.

Pir Akbar Ali (Ferozepore, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, the resolution now before the House is a very simple one and does not call for a lengthy discussion like the one into which we have entered. I had expected that the Government would say in its answer that they will frame the required rules for the guidance of the patwaris. Contrary to my expectations the Government is trying to give evasive answers. The Honourable the Revenue Member has explained the procedure which is observed for making entries in voters' lists. This is not sufficient. Perhaps he did it in order that it may become impossible to bring in another similar motion in the future.

Mr. President: The honourable member will not please impute motives.

Pir Akbar Ali: Not particularly to any one, Sir. The honourable mover has quoted cases in which the names of many persons who were entitled to vote were not entered in the lists. For example, he placed his own case before the House. His name was not entered in the list of voters of the district board. I am a member of the municipal committee. My name and another Hindu gentleman's name were not entered in the list of voters of the Ferozepore municipal committee. Our names were entered in the list on the intervention of the naib-tahsildar. Every patwari has

[Pir Akbar Ali.]
got with him a *jamabandi* from which he can easily find out the amount of land revenue one pays to the Government and in this way he may know whether he is entitled to a vote or not. Notwithstanding this, there have been many cases in which patwaris have not made entries of the names of persons entitled to vote in the lists of the voters. The Honourable Revenue Member has not mentioned even a single case in which any patwari was punished for such a misconduct, during all those years during which the Council has been in existence. The honourable mover has rightly found fault with the procedure by which one can get his name entered in the voter's list if it was not entered therein previously by an oversight or otherwise. Really this procedure is very objectionable for it involves a lot of trouble. The people are too poor to afford to affix one rupee stamp on the application for the purpose or to grease the palm of the peon of the officer concerned. They cannot even afford to go without work for two or three days, for the sake of getting their names entered in any of the lists of voters. Therefore it is necessary to frame rules for the punishment of those patwaris who intentionally omit to enter the names of the entitled persons in the lists of the voters. This is too simple a matter to require any lengthy expostulation.

Then the Honourable Revenue Member objected to the wording of the resolution and pointed out that it was not clear. The resolution is quite happily worded and its meaning is quite clear. It applies to all the lists of voters whether of the Council or of local bodies. I hope the Government would very kindly accept the resolution and remove these most reasonable complaints that have been explained by the various honourable members.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah (Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I had no intention to make a speech on the motion now before the House, but a few remarks made by the Honourable the Revenue Member have constrained me to rise to make a few submissions with regard to them. Yesterday during the discussion of a very important question the Government had adopted the same impregnable attitude that they have now adopted with regard to this resolution. They found fault with the motion on some technical grounds, and against the present motion they have got this objection that in it it is not made clear whether it applies to the voters of the Council or those of the district boards and municipal committees. I request the Government to proceed in a business-like manner and understand from the language of the resolution what it clearly conveys and what the honourable mover means by it. The difficulties that the people experience on account of the wrong entries in the voters' lists have been made patent by the honourable members, and it is but necessary that the Government should take steps to remove them. The honourable member representing Ferozepore has rightly said that merely explaining the procedure as to how an entry of a name can be made in the voters' lists is not sufficient. To say, as the Honourable the Revenue Member has said, that there are some instructions in Urdu as well as in English for the guidance of the patwaris is not what is required at present. What we want is this, that some such rules be framed by which it may become obligatory for the patwaris and others engaged in this work to enter in the lists all those persons who are entitled to a vote. Instead of giving

such evasive answers the Honourable Revenue Member ought to have admitted the shortcomings in the rules and promised to consider it sympathetically. The Government ought to have given an undertaking to the effect that the required rules will be framed for the guidance of the patwaris and others.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: The rules are there.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: You have not quoted even a single rule. You have only explained that the person whose name has not been entered in the list should apply to the Deputy Commissioner in order to get it entered. You have not shown any case in which any patwari was punished under those rules.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Bring to our notice some instances of such misdemeanour and we will be too ready to punish them.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: I ask what punishment can be awarded to those patwaris who intentionally make such omissions.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: They can be even dismissed.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: Sir, there are rules regulating the census operations. If the official responsible to make entries in connection with the census does not make any entry or makes a wrong entry he is punishable under the rules but a patwari who omits to enter the name of a person entitled to vote in the lists, is not punishable under any rules. There are no rules to punish him. Those people who have at any time sought election know very well that often the names of those persons who are really entitled to vote are left out while the names of those who are not entitled to vote are entered in the lists. I ask how many of the patwaris who have intentionally omitted to enter in the lists the names of the persons entitled to vote, have been punished.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Has any such case ever been brought to the notice of the responsible officers?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: I say that many a time it has been brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner that the voters' lists are incorrect and defective, but still they have never taken any action against those who were responsible in framing them. The honourable mover wants that some rules be framed by which it may become obligatory for the persons engaged in this work to make correct entries in the lists. Once my name was not entered in the list of voters of the municipal committee. At another time my name was not entered in the list of voters of the district board. Time before last my name was missing in the list of voters of the Council.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: What action did you take then?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: I brought it to the notice of the officers concerned. You want that the person whose name has not been entered in the list should himself take some action against the official responsible for the omission.

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]

as members—and this I do not believe—or perhaps the patwari is careless. India is not like England where you have got busses or railways going to every village. Here majority of villages are about 30 or 40 miles away from the district head-quarters. You cannot, therefore, expect these people to go to the district head-quarters in thousands. Would you like them to march in their thousands from one village to the district head-quarters? I, therefore, think that it should be obligatory not only on the patwari but we should force the lambardar and other village officials also to help in this. As soon as a patwari has prepared a list he should hand it over to the lambardar to enquire whether any name in the village has been left out. He should refer to his books to see how much revenue is being paid. The very fact that some names are left out shows negligence and of course the patwari is not under the gentleman who is in charge of the Election Department. What does he care for him. When he was an ilaqa magistrate probably then the patwari was afraid of him but now when he is not, he does not care for him. He is now more afraid of the qanungo or the naib-tahsildar. Why should he therefore do this extra work willingly unless there is a penalty attached for not doing it.

3 P. M.

My honourable friend the mover has given a few instances of irregularities and in doing so, his object, as I believe it to be the object of every honourable member here, was to lay down a principle for the guidance of Government. In the coming elections the point will be of considerable importance. It must not be possible for any one on behalf of future Government, the Finance Member or the Chief Secretary or the Home Secretary, to issue instructions to the thanas to order all the patwaris not to enter a particular name in the list, lest it should add to the strength of any party in the Council whom the Government of the day does not like to see in power. I have got in my mind the glaring instance of a whole street in Amritsar having been omitted. Nobody worried himself about the list till the last moment of election when this wholesale omission was noticed. I daresay many important constituencies have been treated in a similar way. As another instance in point I may mention the case of the Civil Surgeon of Amritasr. His name was omitted in the list. Again I know a member of the Assembly was not in the list and he had to apply to His Excellency the Governor for the inclusion of his name. In order to prevent such omissons in the future you should either employ a new agency for the purpose or make stringent provisions for the punishment of any dereliction of duty on the part of the patwaris. I cannot understand the Honourable the Revenue Member saying that the obligation exists even at present. Does an obligation exist and remain enforceable by the mere fact of its being put in black and white, by a simple rule or instruction that the patwari should or should not do a particular thing? Unless there is the sanction behind it, unless it is provided that the patwari would make himself liable to be turned out of office for this neglect the obligation would be of little value. Unless the patwari knows that the hand of Government is falling on him, is there the likelihood of his taking it seriously? My Honourable friend the Revenue Member is still new to his office and does not realise that any instruction from him has to pass through several hands before it reaches the patwari and it may take even months before the intimation reaches the

Patwari. If, on the other hand, the patwari knows that under the law he will be punished he will do the work properly. Instructions are given, of course, but they are difficult to be translated even by a lawyer.

With these words I support the resolution.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders, General): I should like, with your permission, to say a few words to clear a misapprehension. The resolution is that it should be made obligatory on those entrusted with the work of preparing voters' lists to enter voters' names. The answer given is that the obligation is already there. I really cannot understand what the dispute is about. It seems to me that the two sides are really carrying on a struggle about something which is at the back of their minds to which they have not given clear expression. I think that what appears to be at the back of the mind of the honourable mover is this that there should be a statutory provision, a penal provision, for meeting such cases. The answer which the Honourable the Revenue Member has given is that the provision already exists on the administrative side for punishing an omission of the kind. Therefore the question for this Council to decide is whether the Council is prepared to advise the Government that they should frame a law making it obligatory on officials entrusted with the duty to enter the names of all voters. As far as the penalties are concerned almost every honourable member of the Council is aware that all penal provisions cover a wide range. On the administrative side a man can be punished from a fine of two annas to dismissal. On the criminal side a man may be punished with a fine of two annas up to the maximum imprisonment provided by the law. In every case it depends upon the nature of the offence committed. Another point which probably the honourable mover has in his mind to which none of the speakers has given clear expression is this, whether on the administrative side or on the criminal side, if criminal law is to be adopted in this matter, there should or should not be a discrimination between deliberate and intentional omission and an inadvertent omission. I think that the best course for the Honourable the Revenue Member would be to ask the honourable mover to draft a new set of rules and then see what difficulties he will come across. The rules which already exist should be supplied to the honourable mover and to others who want a change, all of whom will sit down to consider a new set of draft rules. So far as omissions are concerned whether inadvertent or deliberate it may be easy enough to pounce upon a patwari who has access to revenue records for omitting a name. But it will be very difficult to hold a man entrusted with the duty of preparing voters' lists in urban areas responsible and bring home to him his guilt. (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq:* The honourable mover has spoken only about rural areas.) No. The words in the resolution are voters' lists in general and cover responsibility for the preparation of the lists not only in rural but in urban areas as well. As far as the rural areas are concerned the patwari has access to revenue records, in fact the revenue records are with him. As the particular qualification is payment of a certain amount of revenue to Government he can easily pick up the names of those qualified for entry as voters. But what about voters in urban areas ? There the qualification is the payment of a certain amount of rent. There is no record in urban areas showing how much rent is leviable for each kind of property in the city. So it is very difficult for a man entrusted with the duty of preparing voters' lists for urban areas

[D. B. Raja Narendra Nath.]

to discharge it fully unless the voters co-operate and come forward themselves and give proof that they possess the qualification required. I think that the whole controversy can be put an end to if the Honourable the Revenue Member were to place at the disposal of these gentlemen the rules which already exist and ask them to suggest the changes which they want to be made in the rules already in operation. That will be the best way of meeting the situation and I do not think that it is any use indulging in generalities and putting forward specific cases of gross neglect in which nothing has been done.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend (Financial Commissioner): One word, Sir or behalf of the patwaris. I may at the outset assure my eloquent friend from Amritsar that we are issuing no instructions to omit his name from the rolls, and I am confident that no muharrir or patwari would ever venture to omit his name. I am quite certain that his well-known personality would make such an omission quite impossible.

I wish as head of the Revenue Department to make a few remarks on the question of patwaris. They have been called the handmaids of the administration, and while I certainly do not maintain that they are perfect, I wish to point out to the House the very many duties that now fall upon them. As all honourable members are aware they have to carry out the girdawaries or crop inspections twice a year: work demanding assiduity and constant attention, particularly so in districts in the south-east of the province as Multan, where crop inspections are in progress practically throughout the year. Most important again are the duties that devolve on them in the matter of mutation entries which as honourable members know, are incorporated in the jamabandies of every village every fourth year. They have to report every variety of occurrence, every action of a nature that may have any effect on the agricultural population in their area. They have to report many occurrences to kanungoes; they have to report the occurrence of any epidemic or disease, the holding of meetings of any kind, the rainfall and they have indeed to report that they have nothing to report! I have often seen such reports. I trust therefore that in any action which this House takes in this resolution it will not make it unduly hard on these people who have the many duties I have mentioned to discharge, neglect of any of which would be punished for neglect. And I would ask the House to bear in mind that these patwaris are also mortals and liable to err. Their jurisdiction is often large, and it is impossible for a patwari to know that a man who owns land in his area also owns land outside it.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon (Minister for Education): Sir, honourable members who have spoken on this resolution have my entire sympathy, because any person interested in municipal, district board or Legislative Council elections has a right to be satisfied that the electoral rolls are being prepared correctly, that no person whose name should not be on the electoral roll is put on the electoral roll and that all those who are entitled to be on the roll are put on the roll. I think it is also clear to the House that as far as the Honourable the Revenue Member is concerned, his speech showed that he had every sympathy with the difficulties experienced by honourable members and that he was prepared to go as far as possible to meet their wishes in the subject. The whole question is: what are the means that should be adopted to remedy the weaknesses which can be found

to exist in the procedure? First let me take the question of the preparation of voters' lists in municipalities, because the resolution is a general one and applies to the local bodies as well as to the Legislative Council. When I was Minister for Local Self-Government many cases came to my notice in which it was alleged that a very large number of fictitious names had been put on electoral rolls. Such allegations came from representatives of one community or the other often accusing each other of undesirable practices. In several cases elections to municipal committees had to be held up for months and months, because the electoral rolls were not acceptable to the people concerned and there were allegations of underhand dealings which had to be decided. For instance, in the case of Rawalpindi, the election had to be postponed because the electoral roll was alleged to be incorrect. I thought that the preparation of electoral rolls would never be put on a sound basis unless the rules on the subject were altered and I took the opportunity of revising them. These revised rules have been recently published and brought into force from October last. In this connection I am glad to say that on the Committee which redrafted the rules, my keen, energetic and experienced friend from Amritsar was a member and he gave invaluable assistance in redrafting the rules and removing the weaknesses in the law on the subject. I do not want to read out the various rules to honourable members but in the old rules there was one difficulty. If a man's name was on the electoral roll and if his name had been omitted by sheer mischief by the patwari or somebody else, then if he did not put in a petition within a certain time to rectify the defect, he had no remedy. I remember a case in which the name of the Vice-President of a district board was omitted from the electoral roll of that board; he alleged that it was done by the machination of his enemies, but he could not have his name put on the roll afterwards, with the result that he could not stand for election to the board and could not consequently be elected its Vice-President. That defect has now been remedied and the electoral roll can now be amended up to the last minute. If a person is aggrieved, if his name is not there but ought to have been there, he is at liberty to go to the Deputy Commissioner and have his name included on the list.

Mr. Din Muhammad: There is no such rule. Only clerical errors can be corrected.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: There might have been.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: I will read rule 14 (1):

> "Any person whose name is on the roll of a constituency may at any time bring to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner by application in writing in any form any error in the entry in the roll relating to his name."

Mr. Din Muhammad: It only speaks of one whose name is on the roll.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: I distinctly remember there was another rule on the subject. (*Honourable members*: No such rule at all.)

Mr. Din Muhammad: There cannot be any such rule.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: I remember myself making a rule to that effect although I cannot lay my finger on that now.

[Hon. Malik Firoz Khan Noon.]
But if there was no such rule, a rule to that effect ought to be made. Yes, the rule is Rule 14, Sub-rule 2 of the Municipal Election Rules.

Now this resolution says that it must be made obligatory on the officer concerned to enter all the names in the register. But how is he to know the names of all the persons ? Take the case of a city like Amritsar. There may be a shop-keeper whose existence may not be known to the officer concerned ; he may not be living there at all. Unless there is a political or party organisation which takes up the work of organising the preparation of electoral rolls and sees that all those who are entitled to be on the rolls are on the rolls, I am afraid it is very difficult for the patwari or for any persons in charge of the preparation of the roll to do it thoroughly. How can you dismiss or punish a man for not putting a name on the roll when he does not know that that man is there. If the Honourable Revenue Member pointed out these difficulties, it is not because he does not sympathise with the people who have their rights curtailed. I am certain that as far as electoral rolls for district boards and the Legislative Council are concerned, if there is any practical suggestion that you can make to remove the difficulties, my honourable friend and the Leader of the House would only be too pleased to consider the suggestion. But as far as I can see no concrete and practical suggestion has been made to get over the difficulty.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Your attention is drawn to the defects.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : But we want concrete proposals to get over the difficulty and not mere destructive criticisms.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Appoint a committee.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit (Hoshiarpur, Non-Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this resolution. But I thought I should give the House my own experience with regard to matters like the one which has come before the House for discussion. I do not think it is entirely correct to say that it is the fault of the patwari or any other person responsible for the preparation of the voters' list if a voter's name is left out. I have fought three elections and I found that there are a large number of voters especially belonging to what are called the urban classes in rural areas—if that term can be used —who are afraid of giving their names to the patwaris to be entered in the voters' list, because they are afraid they would be asked to pay taxes. Many of them told me that that was simply an excuse to find out who were the persons to be taxed by the district board authorities. Therefore inspite of repeated requests such persons avoid giving their names to the proper authorities for entry on the electoral roll. They tell the patwari : "Strike off our names out of the register ; we do not want our names to be entered on the list." I thought that I must place my experience at the disposal of the House.

Then, in the rural areas the preparation of electoral rolls is left in the hands of the patwaris. The patwaris are a class of people for whom I have many times asked for the sympathy of the House. They have many duties to perform and they have really no extra time at their disposal to do this extra duty which has been allotted to them. It would have been a very good thing if the resolution had suggested that now that we are going to have full provincial self-government this important duty should be done by a separate

department specially meant for this purpose. It is a very good thing that honourable members have agreed that the law should be perfect and so on ; but the real question is : where are the men to do the work that is necessary ? The difficulty is not with regard to the rules ; the rules are there ; the penalty is there ; and everybody knows that. I may say that the aggrieved person may even go to a civil court and claim damages, if his name is intentionally left out.

In this connection there is one important matter which I wish to submit to the House. It is only at the time of the elections that honourable members come to realise that they have some duty in the matter. Once the elections are over, for two or three years they are absolutely silent and do not take any interest in the matter. If a man finds that his opposite party has a larger number of voters on the list he comes up and says : " My name has been left out from the register; my friend's name who is a member of our party has been omitted from the list " and so on. But we have no political organisation which would look after the preparation of the rolls in a perfect manner. We are yet in the infant stage of representative institutions and I am afraid these matters cannot be remedied by merely making rules and regulations. It is only in course of time when everybody realises his duty and when people realise that it is a privilege and a right to have a vote that these matters will be rectified.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : Sir, I rise to say a few words so that I may not be misunderstood. As reference was made particularly to district boards, I think that an assurance from me might be necessary. I need hardly say that the resolution has my fullest sympathy. The right to vote is a very valuable right and nobody should be deprived of it either by negligence or by fraud. I am sure that if anything can possibly be done to avoid such a thing it ought to be done. Government would not have the slightest hesitation to consider and accept any suggestion that might be placed before them in order to remove this difficulty, in however small a measure it might exist in any part of the province. I may also say that it is not so much a matter of rules as a matter of caution. The question in its abstract form resolves itself into this : whose duty is it to see that nobody's name is omitted ? As one of the honourable members opposite pointed out, the difficulty can be remedied only as time advances and people realise more and more the value of the vote. Sometimes an election is lost by one vote and if the supporters of the candidate had placed one more voter on the list the result would have been different. The rules on this point are very clear. Let us take Rule 7 of the Punjab Legislative Council Electoral Rules. It says :

> " Every person shall be entitled to have his name registered on the electoral roll of a constituency, who has the qualifications prescribed for an elector of that constituency and who is not subject to any of the disqualifications hereinafter set out................ "

The rule clearly says that every person has a right to have his name entered on the voters' list. The question is how that right is to be exercised and where the munshi or the muharrir or the patwari comes in. Is the munshi or the muharrir or the patwari to go to every voter's house or is the oter to go to the house of the muharrir or the patwari or to an office where

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the voter's name will be registered ? Rule 9 is also relevant to the point. It says :

> "An electoral roll *shall* be prepared for every constituency on which *shall* be entered the names of all persons appearing to be entitled to be registered as electors for that constituency."

This is a very important rule. It says that it is obligatory to have an electoral roll prepared and that it is also obligatory to have the names of "all persons *appearing* to be entitled to be registered as electors" entered on the roll. But beyond this the rules do not say whose duty it is to do these things. According to a regulation framed under these rules, so far as the general constituencies are concerned, the duty is cast upon the Deputy Commissioner. Regulation No. 2 framed under Rule 9 says :

> "The Deputy Commissioner shall prepare an electoral roll for each general constituency or part of a general constituency included within his jurisdiction."

Therefore, *prima facie* the duty is on the Deputy Commissioner. But in this connection the poor patwari has come in for a great deal of criticism and no one has touched the Deputy Commissioner. What is to happen to the unfortunate man whose name is omitted from the electoral rolls ? Has he any remedy against the Deputy Commissioner, because in the rules and regulations the patwari's name is not mentioned and only the Deputy Commissioner's name is mentioned in the regulation ? The word used in this connection is "shall," so that it is clear that the duty is primarily and in the first instance cast on the Deputy Commissioner. He may choose to employ any agency or machinery that he considers to be most effective and most economical. The patwari then is simply a part of the machinery which is employed by the Deputy Commissioner for that purpose. The same are the rules with respect to the Assembly and the Council of State and it is interesting to note that the same are the rules with respect to district boards. Rule 12 of the District Boards Election Rules says :

> "The Deputy Commissioner shall cause the register of all constituencies of a board to be prepared in form No. 1 and published at a convenient time........"

Here also the duty is laid on the Deputy Commissioner. So far as the Municipal Election Rules are concerned, the duties again lie on the Deputy Commissioner. Rule No. 8 runs :

> "The Deputy Commissioner shall cause the register of all constituencies of a municipality to be prepared in form No. 1 and published at a convenient time........"

So that the Deputy Commissioner is the authority who has to prepare—the words used are—to prepare the electoral rolls of all these legislatures and the local bodies. So that if you want any rules to be framed the rules are to have a reference to the Deputy Commissioner as well as to the machinery that he may employ, and I have not heard a single member of this House getting up and saying that if an honourable member's name is omitted from the electoral rolls or the name of any of his ten thousand voters, as may happen in the Council constituencies, is not on the rolls, what action is to be taken against the Deputy Commissioner because under the statute and the rules made thereunder which have the force of the statute, it is the Deputy Commissioner who is responsible. I am only pointing this out to impress upon you the difficulty of going any further than the rules have already

gone. The Deputy Commissioner is the most responsible authority in a district and the duty has been entrusted to him and not to a naib-tahsildar or to a muharrir or to a patwari. What more could be expected of the legislature so far as this matter is concerned. The most responsible officer in the district has been entrusted with this task and it is he who can, as I have said, employ any agency or machinery for carrying out this purpose.

A reference was made to the English practice. It is rather unfortunate that none of the books which I asked for is available in this Library for the moment, otherwise I would have pointed out that it is not the duty of Government to see that no names are omitted from the register of voters. The duty of Government is confined to the keeping of a register, and the obligation upon the Government is to register the name of every person who *appears* to be a voter, and in the nature of things nothing more could be expected to be the law. Take the case of London, for instance. How can any muharrir or any clerk, however diligent and intelligent he may be, be expected to know how many voters or how many persons competent to vote at the parliamentary elections live in a certain lane, unless he goes from door to door and even then he may not succeed in getting at all the voters. What is there done is this that in various constituencies, registers of voters are kept. The Government provides clerks who are there. Originally no doubt when the electoral rolls were prepared persons who *appeared* to be eligible to a vote at the parliamentary elections might have been entered, but after that the machine goes on and any person who thinks he has a right to vote goes to the registry office and gets his name entered. Not only that. The various political parties in England see to it that the voters who are likely to support their cause are entered in the register of voters. In this country also ultimately it must happen that the various parties and the candidates themselves would see that their own names in the first instance are not omitted from the register of voters and then see whether the names of any of the voters or any persons who are likely to join their parties are entered. I have personally always taken care, to purchase a copy of the electoral roll of the ward and I have always kept that copy with me for contingencies and I have seen to it that my name is entered in the preliminary electoral roll, and I have always purchased a copy of the corrected electoral roll and kept it with me ready for reference at the time of scrutiny if an objection is raised. That is the practical aspect of the thing. Theoretically no one can deny—the Revenue Member never denied—the importance of this and he recognised the importance of seeing that no names are omitted and so far as I could follow him he gave an assurance that if any particular case was brought to his notice in the form of a report or complaint suitable action would be taken. Otherwise simply saying that the patwari will be fined ten annas or even ten rupees may not prove as effective as the personal attention of the persons who want to be entered. If any rules are suggested to make the assurance doubly sure that no names are omitted I have not the slightest doubt that Government would consider those suggestions. If any suggestions are made for municipalities or the district boards, I shall consider them with the greatest attention and without the slightest hesitation no matter from whom the suggestions come, and I have no doubt that suggestions would be considered by other Members of Government if they are calculated to bring about an improvement in this respect. So far as deliberate omissions are concerned

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if they can be proved, there is not the slightest doubt that the man who was responsible for preparing the electoral roll must suffer.

It was pointed out from the Chair, if I may venture to make a reference to the remark made by you, Sir, that it is not a part of the duties of a patwari to prepare this electoral roll strictly speaking......

Mr. President : I said it was not the duty of the patwari as such.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : That does not stand in the way of our taking disciplinary action against him. If he undertakes for a consideration to do this work and he fails to do it, accidental omissions will not make him liable for any disciplinary action, but once it is proved that in order to favour any particular party or particular candidate he deliberately omitted the name of a voter or of a candidate from the electoral roll, then certainly it lies in the hands of the Deputy Commissioner to mete out condign punishment to him because he is paid for this work and when he accepts consideration for carrying out a certain business he is liable to pay the penalty for a deliberate action of mischief which may be proved against him. With these remarks I again express my sympathy with the mover of the resolution, but I do not think that anything further can be done unless some suggestions are made.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Sir, I want to make a personal explanation. When I was speaking—

Mr. President : The honourable member's speech has not been misunderstood or misconstrued. Therefore he is not called upon to make any personal explanation.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh (Jullundur, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I strongly support the resolution and as the Honourable Minister has invited suggestions I have one to make and that is that if the voters' lists are revised reasons for omitting the names of those persons whose names already existed in the old voters' lists should be given and they should be informed accordingly.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (Lyallpur, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I am very thankful to the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government for reading out the rules to us and elucidating the whole thing. But I find that it is really the Deputy Commissioner on whom the whole responsibility of correcting the rolls is put, and this is really unfortunate, because he is not the person who really attends to that work and the person who does that work is not according to law strictly speaking responsible for it. Moreover, when such omissions and mistakes—I might almost call them blunders, some of them most probably intentional,—go before a tribunal to be decided, the authority naturally takes a very lenient view of the thing because originally the duty was that of the Deputy Commissioner and that was only relegated to the most lowly paid subordinate of that officer, and consequently nobody takes serious notice of these mistakes which sometimes result in very big consequences. I happen to know some of those gentlemen whose names have been mentioned here as having been omitted, like that of the Sardar of Mukandpur, who had been a member of the district board for several years and I think who was for some time even a member of this Council, and when

such names are omitted from the roll, I presume that those omissions were intentional and they were not done in good faith.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Enquiry is being made into that particular matter. I have taken action.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: But anyhow it is absolutely necessary that some sort of penalty must be provided to avoid such happenings, specially where it is found on some proper enquiry that such omissions and mistakes were intentional. After all, I am very glad to know this thing that everybody in this House is unanimous on this point that every precaution must be taken that such mistakes should not happen. It is only a question of finding ways and means how to avoid it and I am sure that when the authorities give careful attention to it there will be means found that such mistakes do not take place in future.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (Jullundur, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*): Sir, The Honourable Revenue Member has been pleased to remark that the resolution now before the House is as vague and ambiguous as the one I moved yesterday. I do not understand the significance of this remark except that he wanted to exercise undue influence over me. This Chamber, I would say, is not a University Hall where examinees are supervised by the University authorities. Sir, almost all the learned members of the House have supported this resolution which shows that it is not as vague as the Honourable Revenue Member tried to make us believe. If the Honourable Member wants to discourage us by such ironical remarks, I would say that according to the Urdu couplet :—

تو هو کے ترشرو همیں گالي هزار دے–دیکهه وه نشے نهین جنهین ترشي أتار دے

he would not succeed in his object. The Honourable Member further said that he could not understand me. For that I cannot help. I have already explained in detail the nature of irregularities usually committed in the preparation of voters' lists. I have given instances regarding the municipal, district board and Council elections. I forgot to say something about the Assembly elections. In this connection I would now submit that as a matter of fact even those persons are not entered in the voters' lists who pay Rs. 100 to Government as land revenue. I have already stated that I have been a member of the district board for the last twenty years. Sardar Mukand Singh has also been a member of the district board for a similarly long period. He is a well-known *Jagirdar*. If names of such persons are not entered in the voters' lists, I ask whose fault it is. Does it not show culpable negligence on the part of those who are responsible for the preparation of these lists? I can quote hundreds of instances where persons entitled to vote on the basis of land revenue were not entered in the voters' lists. The same is the case of those who are entitled to vote on the basis of property or on the score of military services. The object of the resolution is therefore to invite the attention of Government to the wilful negligence on the part of those who are responsible for the preparation of the voters' lists. It has also been said that the persons who have not been registered as voters should give notice of the omission to the officers concerned. In reply to this I would submit that I had my name registered by means of a notice served on the officers concerned. Sardar Mukand Singh had to try very

[Ch. Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan.]

hard before he was actually registered. If Government look into this matter and enquire from the local authorities how many representations are usually made for this purpose, I am sure, they will find that the number of such representations is fairly large. No doubt there are a good number of laws and rules in force. Instructions are issued every day. But the difficulty is that these are not complied with. You know, Sir, there is legal sanction for checking corruption and inspite of that corruption is rampant in almost all the Government departments. If an officer be appointed to enquire into the truth of these allegations, I would prove by specific instances that many such persons are not registered as are entitled to vote. We are not told what action is usually taken against those who are responsible for such irregularities. In my opinion it is the duty of Government to see that every person entitled to vote is entered in voters' lists without the least exertion on the latter's part. My friend Raja Sahib has remarked that the case is different so far as the preparation of urban electoral rolls is concerned. So far as my experience of the matter goes, I can say, it is not very different. With these words I would request the Government to issue special instructions to the officers concerned that in future they should be very careful in preparing the voters' lists.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member), (*Urdu*) : Sir, we have already spent a lot of time in discussing this resolution. I have risen simply to make one or two observations, and dispel certain misapprehensions, under which some members seem to be labouring. My honourable friend from Amritsar while discussing the resolution has in the heat of the moment, made remarks which in calmer moments, I am sure, he would repent for. He may not be one of the front rank nationalists in the country, but I have always considered him as belonging to that category.

4 P. M.

Without minimising the importance of the resolution, I must say that the resolution has very little importance as compared with the question of future constitutional advance in this country. The honourable member said that under the future constitution which we hope to get in the near future, the Executive Government will have very little and weak control over administrative matters, and may even abuse their powers by asking magistrates and thanadars to get the lists swamped with partisans of the Government.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I said that in that case the executive can take an undue advantage of its position.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Even that is objectionable. I think no true Indian can hear a remark of this nature without condemning it. Again the remarks made by the honourable member from Lahore are obviously based on misunderstanding. I would not say that this misunderstanding was intentional. In the very beginning of my speech I made it clear that I had every sympathy with the motives which have actuated the honourable member to move this resolution. If any specific instance is brought to the notice of officers concerned I can assure him, it will be thoroughly enquired into, provided the complainant is prepared to prove it. My honourable friend Raja Sahib has very pertinently remarked that the object of the mover and that of the Government

is the same. We should not lay too much stress on words. The honourable the Financial Commissioner has clearly explained the duties of a patwari. The latter has to make certain entries in *jamabandi* and mutation registers. He has to report about the condition of crops. If he fails to perform these duties, he cannot be penalised. At the most departmental action can be taken against him. Sir, if there is no penal provision for neglecting such important duties, I do not see any reason why there should be a penal provision for any default made in connection with the preparation of electoral rolls. Further, I believe it is beyond the jurisdiction of this House to enact penal law with regard to matters connected with election. Even the rule-making power of the Government of India is subject to the control of the Parliament. Anyhow I would always be prepared to welcome any reasonable suggestions for amendment of rules and instructions made by the Punjab Government. I assure the House that Government has every sympathy with the object of the mover.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (*Urdu*) : In view of what the Honourable Revenue Member has said, I beg to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE* SURRENDER OF SALARIES.

Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan (Attock, Muhammadan, Rural), (*Urdu*) : Sir, I beg to move that—

> " This Council recommends to the Government that all officials whose salaries cannot be reduced by the Local Government should be requested to make a voluntary surrender of a reasonable portion of their salaries for the pericd of this depression. "

Sir, no lengthy speech is necessary in recommending this resolution and I think it will be equally unnecessary to discuss it at length. The present day conditions do call for such a step being taken. Economy has become a watch-word of the day and wherever one goes in these days one finds people talking of and effecting economy in every branch of life. In the circumstances I am sure that Government will have no objection to taking the proposed step and that officials concerned will readily respond to this call. I understand that in England such a proposal has already been made and that it has met with approval. With these words I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President :

> " This Council recommends to the Government that all officials whose salaries cannot be reduced by the Local Government should be requested to make a voluntary surrender of a reasonable portion of their salar:es for the period of this depression.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : Sir, I should like to begin by congratulating the honourable mover of this resolution on what I understand is a maiden speech (*hear, hear*). To-day is almost a historic occasion when the honourable member has, I understand, broken an uninterrputed silence of—how many years ? (*Voices* : 15 years).

Mr. Mukand Lal Puri.

دیر آئید درست آئید

Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan :

وہ بھی ایسی بات کہی کہ اپنی تنخواھیں کم کردو

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : He asks the House to recommend to the Government that all officials whose salary cannot be reduced by the local Government should be requested to do a certain thing. I think in the first place it is my duty to make it quite clear who are the officials to whom this request would be made, that is to say, who are the officials whose salaries it is beyond the power of the local Government to reduce. They are, Sir, of three classes. In the first place there are officials engaged on special contract terms by the Secretary of State, secondly there are members of the All-India Services. Obviously any reduction in their salaries must be of all-India application and can only be made by the authority which appointed them. Thirdly there are officers who belong to provincial or subordinate services and were appointed before a certain date. Under the rules which regulate these services—rules framed by the Secretary of State—the local Government has no power of passing any order reducing the emoluments of a member of the provincial or subordinate services appointed before a certain date in March 1926. The honourable member's proposal is that the Government should request all officers, in the first place all officers serving on contract, which category includes a large number of specialist officers and a large number of officers for instance engaged on the Hydro-Electric Scheme, in fact, nearly all the officers engaged on that Scheme. Government is also to ask all members of the All-India Services, that is to say the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Police Service, the few remaining members of the Indian Educational Service, the members of the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch and the few remaining members of the Buildings and Roads Branch and a few officers in some of the smaller departments of Government. In addition it should address its request to all officers of provincial services, who are far more numerous, and to all officers of subordinate services, who are more numerous still, provided those officers were appointed before a certain date in March 1926. Now, Sir, what is the nature of the request which Government is to address to this very large class of its employees? It is to ask them "to make a voluntary surrender of a reasonable portion of their salaries for the period of depression." In the first place who is to be the judge of what is a reasonable portion of the salary. The resolution is not quite clear on that point.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : It leaves it to the Government.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : If that is the intention of the resolution that would mean, I suppose, that Government should ask them to surrender a certain percentage of their salaries. But I am not sure that this is the meaning of the resolution. I should read the resolution as leaving it to the officers concerned to decide what is a reasonable portion of their salaries, because it is surely a little invidious to say that an officer drawing a hundred rupees a month should surrender say 5 per cent. of his salary——

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : It affects only those who are not under the control of the local Government.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have just explained that it affects all officers of all subordinate services appointed before a certain date in March 1926.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : They will not be getting hundred rupees.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : A great many of them are getting less than hundred rupees. I am trying to make it clear that the implications of the resolution are possibly far wider than the honourable member intended. The honourable member has expressly asked us to address this request to all officers whose salary the local Government cannot reduce and I have explained that the local Government has no power to reduce the salaries of provincial or subordinate services appointed before a certain date in March 1926. Now, Sir, to resume what I was saying, I hardly think it would be accepted as equitable that an officer,—leaving aside the lower paid ones drawing less than hundred rupees, let us take the case of an officer drawing Rs. 250,—if you ask him to surrender say a certain percentage of his salary and ask officers drawing a much higher rate of pay such as a High Court Judge to surrender an equal percentage of his salary, surely that would be a little unfair for the one may be living an existence which leaves a very small margin for expenditure on charity, while the other may be more fortunately circumstanced. I think, Sir, that can hardly be the intention of the honourable mover, though my friend (Mr. Sadiq) says it was. I read the resolution as asking that Government should approach those officers hat in hand and say to them " will you please give me of your charity."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Why charity ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : What you give of your free will is charity.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : No.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : If charity does not mean voluntary giving, what does it mean ? " Will you please give me voluntarily what you consider to be a reasonable portion of your salary "—that I take is really what the honourable member means. Well, how would that work in actual practice ? It is very difficult to say, but it does seem to me that it thrusts upon the individual officer a very invidious responsibility indeed. All that an employer knows is that the employee draws a certain salary, but he does not know what calls he has on his purse, whether for instance he has to support a large and a growing family and has to meet claims for education, clothing, doctor's bills and so on, whether he has to support indigent relatives besides those who might be thought strictly dependent upon him. I think the result would be that the largest sacrifices would be made by the very people who are least able to afford.

There would also be the temptation on the part perhaps of an officer who desired to pose as particularly public-spirited to wait to ascertain what his brother officers of the same rate of emoluments had given and then give a little more. That is a trait in human nature which I have found

[Hon. Sir Henry Craik.]

is not uncommon among people to whom charitable appeals are made. I have myself had some experience in asking my friends or my acquaintances to subscribe to charitable objects which, I think, are deserving and I have very frequent calls made on me in that connection myself. My almost invariable experience—I think most honourable members who have had the same task to perform will agree with me—is that the greatest generosity is shown in quarters where one least expects it, that it is not the wealthy who are really generous in this world, but that it is usually the man of comparatively modest means with a high sense of public spirit who on these occasions shows the greatest generosity. That is a trait in human nature which is notoriously true and which has been the subject of remarks and comment by philosophers, by poets and by writers on religion. And I think nobody can deny it. That is why I think that this would be a peculiarly invidious way of asking employees of Government to contribute a share which would depend on their own free will. The proper way, if it is decided that there must be a reduction in the cost of the administration, a reduction which involves a curtailment of the salaries of Government officers, the proper way is not to do it by such a method as this, but to do it in the proper constitutional way, that is either by a statutory enactment or a decision of Government that has the force of law.

There is one other sentence in this resolution which I have not yet touched. Government is asked to make this request on its officers to make this surrender of part of their salaries for "the period of this depression." The first question an officer of Government if asked to surrender voluntarily whatever he considered fair or reasonable out of his salary would be: How long am I to go on doing this? 'Oh,' the honourable mover will say 'for the period of depression.' 'Well,' the officer will ask 'but what is the period of depression? What do you mean by that?' And what does the honourable mover mean by that? The phrase is one that is extraordinarily vague. Does he mean that when prices recover to a certain figure the contribution should cease or does he mean that when the pitch of the general all-round cost of living again rises to a certain figure the contribution will cease? Even if that is his meaning, he must surely define it a little more clearly than that. Does he intend, for example, to compare the cost of living with what it was before the war or with what it was during the boom years immediately succeeding the war? All these are extremely relevant considerations. The period would have to be defined and defined with considerable exactitude before it would be legitimate to make any such request as is suggested in this resolution.

There is one other point. I have said that the proper way in which to tackle this question, if reduction in salary is to be made, is to make, it in the ordinary constitutional method. It does seem to me possible—I am in no way betraying any official confidence as I have received no confidence—it does seem to me that there is the possibility that certain forms of taxation, not provincial taxation, may be raised during the coming year. That is purely speculation founded on my own reading of the situation. I wish to emphasise that I have received no official information of any kind whatever. But it is obvious to all who have read the financial situation that the odds are the coming year will see some increase of taxation and that it is very likely

that one form of this increase will be an addition to income-tax. Income-tax is a tax which falls on Government servants in full because it is deducted at its source. It falls on them more severely therefore than on any other class and this consideration ought not be overlooked when the House considers a suggestion of this nature. The honourable member stated in very brief terms what he now suggests is being done in England or in Europe. I do not know what authority he has for that statement. All I have seen is a report or an anticipation in the press that one very small class in England—Cabinet Ministers—are about to announce a voluntary surrender of a certain percentage of their salary. So far as I know that is a mere speculation which has not yet been confirmed. Beyond that I have seen no suggestion of any such voluntary surrender on the part of any other classes. And I really do not see why if Government is in such severe financial straits that it has to go round hat in hand asking people for voluntary contributions, it should limit its claims to its own employees. There are many classes of people in this country who are in a better position to contribute than a great many Government employees and I do not see why we should not, if we are going to ask Government employees for this form of voluntary surrender, why we should not ask the wealthy people of other classes to make a similar sacrifice. (*An honourable member :* Tax them). They are taxed ! So is the Government servant taxed, equally and even more heavily taxed. I submit that this proposal would be a premature and I venture to think a rather futile gesture. It is not in the considered opinion of Government the proper way of dealing with the financial situation. Government has not yet been reduced to a position where it is necessary to go round carrying a hat. (*An honourable member :* But people are.) No. I do not think the people are. People are meeting their obligations and Government has met its obligations up to the present. And I do not see any reason for assuming that this period of severe economic depression through which we are passing is going to last for ever. The Punjab Government has weathered worse storms than this. Yes, Sir, it has. The financial situation in 1921-22 was far worse than the present situation. We are not yet, at any rate I speak with all sense of responsibility, reduced to a situation where it is necessary to resort to such a device as this.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban): Sir, there has always been a gulf between honourable gentlemen on that side and those of us who sit here. They believe that officials under the present Government will readily make sacrifices when demanded while we maintain that it is impossible to expect that of them. My honourable friend the mover came with the hope that a simple request from him to the Honourable Member for Finance would meet with a ready compliance. He has made his appeal in this meaningless resolution, according to the honourable member and probably he thought that he would be able to move the heart of the Honourable the Finance Member who has been saying that he cares for the teeming millions of India as well as any of us. My honourable friend has been wrong in thinking that as soon as he made the appeal, Honourable Members of Government would say : "We will give up 25 per cent. of our salary." I was quite certain from the first that my honourable friend has made the appeal to wrong quarters. We can never expect any such generosity from any one who does not belong to this country and whose sympathies

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq,]

cannot naturally be with us. These gentlemen have come to rule over us and they cannot be expected to give any portion of their contracted salary. My honourable friend thought that the position here was analogous to that in Australia or Rumania. Probably he was reading in his village residence the announcement of the Government of Rumania that the King, Ministers and civil servants have agreed for a ten or twenty per cent. reduction in their salary.

Probably he was sitting on a *charpoy* under a *peepul* tree and dreaming about those countries. Evidently he has forgotten that there is a distance of 3,000 or 4,000 miles between Rumania and this country.

We understand that the Cabinet Ministers of the Labour Government in England have agreed to voluntarily surrender a portion of their salaries. Why not the Members of our Government also do the same? Why not Honourable Sir Craik says: "We cannot ask people getting Rs. 100 a month to reduce their salaries," but surely those who are getting Rs. 5,000 can reduce it to Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 3,000 for one or two years." These sums are certainly more than enough. If Mahatma Gandhi can live on annas 4 a day, one can live easily on Rs. 175 a day. There is no difficulty. If you did so, it would not be necessary for you to go round with hat in hand for charity. Take it out of your own pocket. If the Honourable the Revenue Member and the Honourable the Finance Member who are the rulers of this province and who are in charge of the finances of this province, if they come forward and say: "Yes, we are ready to have our pay reduced." I am sure that the other members of the services will also rise to the occasion and agree to surrender a portion of their salaries.

My Honourable friend is right in one way but he is wrong in another way. He was quite right when he said that we weathered a worse storm in 1922-23. At that time Government had no money, but the people had plenty of money and the taxes had not been raised sufficiently. High prices ruled in the market. Land was selling at Rs. 40,000 a *morrabba*. (To the ordinary man in the street, *morabba* is something very sweet. But now the same land does not fetch even Rs. 5,000. It is wrong to say that because Government has weathered a worse storm it will weather another storm easily. There is a lot of difference between that storm and this storm. As I said before, at that time though the Government had no money the people had plenty of money with them and the taxes had not been raised sufficiently, but now the people have no money with them at all. The poor villagers are selling their ornaments in order to pay land revenue. If this goes on for some time, there is sure to be trouble. We must reduce our expenses I think, even our own allowances should be reduced. Instead of having Rs. 12 let us have Rs. 10. This must be done not as a charity or out of any heroic motives, but only in the belief that if we cut down our allowances our freinds on the other side also will reduce their own. The object of the mover of the resolution is not to pass the resolution and put the Government in the wrong. I know the mover would not bring any such resolution. He only hoped that the Government would accept the resolution without opposition.

There are people who say that the Indian Nationalists are only so-called patriots and that they are really exploiting the teeming milions of this

country and that Government alone are the real friends of the teeming millions. Well, Sir, here is an opportunity for you to show how far you are the friends of the teeming millions ? If you are really the friends of the teeming millions why do you bring forward this rigmarole of arguments and say : "how are we to reduce the salaries ? Do you want the Government to do it or leave it to the officers concerned to do it voluntarily ? Who is to judge how much is a reasonable reduction ?" Cannot my Honourable friends if they are really the friends of the teeming millions come forward and say : "Yes, we will forego Rs. 1,000 and take only Rs. 4,000." Reasonable or unreasonable, we leave it entirely to the persons concerned. The reasonableness depends upon the amount by which each person reduces his demand. If, for instance, the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government reduces his salary by Rs. 10 only, then certainly he must be the most unreasonable man ; if on the other hand he reduces it by Rs. 1,000, then I will say he is reasonable to the extent of a quarter. If he reduces his salary by half then he is the most reasonable man. Where is the room for spending so much time on discussion and talk ? The Governments of Australia, New Zealand and Rumania issued an appeal to their civil servants and in response to that appeal the civil servants of those countries voluntarily agreed to forego a portion of their salaries. No Act of Parliament was passed in those countries compelling the civil servants to forego part of their salaries. It was asked : "do you want that every officer should give a portion of pay as charity?" I say, "Yes, we accept it as a charity if you call it charity; and really the Punjab wants charity very badly at this time. Conditions were not so bad at any time before." I am afraid if things go on like that the Government will have to stop all its grants to education, public health and other nation-building services. It is not the object of the mover to put the Government in the wrong, or to put the officers in the wrong by passing the resolution in the Council and then telling the world that the officers have not been generous. His object is different. Every body knows whether he belongs to the Nationalist party or to any other party that in the Punjab while the salaries of officers have gone up the income of the Government has gone down. This high scale of salaries was fixed when the prices were high, when wheat was 4 or 5 seers a rupee and ghee Rs. 80 or 90 a maund ; but now the prices have gone down so low that wheat sells at 20 seers a rupee and ghee at Rs. 60 a maund. You find that there is at least a drop of 33 per cent. in prices. I do not blame you for having got your increased pay while the prices were high. You have to live a certain standard of life as a Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner or Sessions Judge. Every one has to keep a certain standard of life. Even we lawyers who are ready to criticise others, even we, have to keep a certain standard of life. Therefore I do not blame you at all for having got increases of pay at a time of high prices. But when prices have gone down so low, is it not reasonable on your part to reduce your salaries to some extent ? We only request you to do this voluntarily. We do not in this resolution make any recommendation to the Governor or the Viceroy or the Secretary of State or the British Parliament. We only request you to reduce your pay of your own accord. We ask the Government to sound the opinion of the services and see whether they are willing to make some sacrifice. I do not call it charity ; why should you call it charity when people give back what they have taken in the form of pay ? Then there is the question of allowances. Many officers get Rs. 10 and

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]
Rs. 12 a day as allowances. Some get motor car allowance, some house rent allowance, some sumptuary allowance and various other allowances. It was argued that we cannot reduce the pay of officers who have entered into a contract with the Secretary of State. Did these officers enter into a contract with the Secretary of State for these allowances also ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Sir, allowances are not referred to in this resolution.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : But people make money out of them.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Let them give up a portion of their allowances also. These allowances were given when we had no power and when there was nobody to criticise the acts of Government. Take the case of a Superintendent of Police. Why should you give him a motor car allowance of Rs. 150 a month ? Many other officers are also given motor car allowances. Take the case of a Deputy Commissioner. Why should you give him a house rent allowance of Rs. 150 a month ? I do not personally grudge to pay the Deputy Commissioner or anybody.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : There are only very few.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: It may be that there are only a very few; but ask those very few people to give up the very few rupees. There will be no harm. If the Honourable the Finance Member had promised to do something I would have said that he is very sympathetic. But the answer that he has now given is very unsympathetic. I never expected that from the Honourable the Finance Member. His answer will not carry conviction to anybody. They now propose to reduce the expenditure .on transferred subjects, but they will not cut the high salaries of their servants. I am sorry that the Honourable the Finance Member has not risen to the occasion and done what his countrymen have done in England and what other Europeans have done in places like Rumania.

(*At this stage Mr. President left the chair and it was occupied by Mr. S. L. Sale.*)

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture] : Sir, I do not happen to be one of the officials whose salary is not within the power of this House to regulate. But I have had the privilege of being associated with officials and I think I am bound to protect their rights and stand by the contracts and covenants already made.

Pir Akbar Ali : We can decrease your pay.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Yes, you can, but you cannot reduce the salaries of officers and go back from the agreement which have been made.

Pir Akbar Ali : You are supporting them so that they may support you when your time comes.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The honourable member is wrong. I depend entirely on the support of the House and I am confident that the House will always do what is right and just. I can with some pride say that this House has always exhibited right sense of its

responsibilities and I am sure we can rely on its judgment to do what is just and right in future.

The ground on which this resolution is moved is, that we have been invaded by a financial depression of unheard of magnitude and that this depression is going to endure, leading to a fall in revenue, and that there is no other way of making up the deficiency in revenue, than by requesting Government servants to forego a portion of their salaries. Let me now explain one or two aspects of this depression of which we have been hearing so much. Will those honourable members who talk about this depression tell me whether in this year of grace the produce from land has been less on an average than in previous years?

Pir Akbar Ali : But the prices have gone down.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Therefore it is granted that so far as the total yield is concerned, it has been the same as the average of previous years. Now it must also be admitted that there is a possibility of increasing the yield. Granted that our power of production has not altered, and there is every possibility of increasing production, it is money value of the produce that has changed. I may remind the House that there was a time when the money value of commodities was so low that you could get 5 seers of ghee per rupee.

Pir Akbar Ali : Your pay might have been Rs. 500 then.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I am afraid the honourable member has never studied the question. Does the honourable member know what salaries the ministers were paid in Akbar's time? If he had read his history he would not have raised the question.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : But their neck was always in danger.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : So are ours.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Now, let us examine the situation in a calm manner. The land is not yielding less; the man power of the province has not deteriorated; the sources of production remain the same; the developments intended to exploit these sources have been set in motion. I submit, Sir, that there is no cause for despair. There is no doubt that prices have fallen. The prices have fallen and the reason for a fall in prices can be traced; the causes are not beyond remedy. Prices represent in money values, which measure a unit labour. That measure is fixed by the State and that measure is continuously changing.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : How do you know that it is not going to endure?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : If you have ever studied these questions you will understand how. You cannot find them in law books or books of "rulings."

Pir Akbar Ali : The Honourable Minister is addressing another honourable member. Must he not either address the House or the Chair?

The Chairman (Mr. Sale) : The Honourable Minister had better continue his speech.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : If I am continually interrupted I have to reply to those interruptions. I hope you will allow me to do so.

The Chairman : They are mere rhetorical questions which need not be answered.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The question is, then, for me to examine the causes for the reduction of prices ? Why have prices fallen? I have been in my own poor way trying to study the problem, and I can with some confidence say that when financial resources of the world are pooled and the demand for money fully met, prices will range round values which the world wishes to give. I wish to emphasise that with increasing production penury cannot pursue plenty. The Punjab has suffered for want of cash, and is suffering at present, but the real resources of the province remain unchanged, and I can say with some confidence that these resources have improved. (*A voice* : That is not so). I am quite prepared to be examined on that point if you would like to question me.

You say that the only way to increase the resources of the province is to ask the officials to surrender their salaries. You will agree with me that it is not possible for any appeal that is made in this way to be effective. (*Interruption*). What I was saying was, and I think I was on the point when you interrupted me, Sir, that you have to consider whether an appeal of the kind you propose that Government should make would be effective and produce substantial savings. That appeal, I submit, cannot be effective (*hear, hear*), and the only point then is, has not the Government any other ways of taxing its officials if it so desires and the Honourable Finance Member told you that there is a possibility and not a very remote possibility, that the income-tax will so operate that, it will uniformly tax not only the officials but other sources of revenue. All those who are interested in this problem, I am sure, will agree with me that for Government the only way to increase its revenue is fresh taxation, and I can recall no instance where any appeal of this kind has succeeded in securing revenue. We know that appeals have been issued by the Viceroys and Governors and Government Members for charitable purposes, and we know what amounts they have generally secured. I think the members of this House may reasonably consider that when such an occasion arises, not only the provincial Government but the central Government will leave no source untapped. Lastly, Sir, I wish to appeal to you. We all know that we are entering upon a new era, and as we are entering upon that new era, we should at least give an assurance that all obligations which were made on our behalf in the past, and which may be made now, will be kept to the full.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan [Ambala Division, North-East (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, it was a little surprising to me to hear the Honourable the Finance Member opposing this resolution. A short time ago the Punjab Government issued a press *communique* when they remitted land revenue on certain irrigated areas saying that the Government was in the grip of financial stringency. Now that is the way in which the members of this House are suggesting to Government to improve in however little a degree the weak condition of the finances of the province. In the first

place the Honourable Finance Member finds a technical objection to the resolution. He says what portion of the salary of each such public servant whose salary Government cannot reduce, can be surrendered. When a man does not want to do anything he always puts forward lame excuses. The field was open to Government to what portion they would ask Government servants to surrender and an instance of this can be seen in this fact that in this very Council in November last we passed a resolution recommending to Government to give some relief to the agriculturists. In that resolution we did not lay down any standard or any percentage and when the Government wanted to do it they themselves made a rule and gave some remission. So if they want to ask the officers to surrender a portion of their salary, cannot they make a rule?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : One is giving and the other is taking.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : We are only asking that you should make a request and if the officials whose salary is to be surrendered do not comply with it then you can come and say that you have not got anything. We have fixed no percentage whatever. Government is to be the judge and it can fix any amount it considers reasonable.

Then the other objection made to-day is also a technical one. It is this, that it is possible to have a case in which the salary of the man is only Rs. 100 and on the other side there is a case of a Judge of the High Court getting Rs. 4,000. The Honourable Finance Member says that it is unjust or inequitable to levy the same percentage from each. Even there we have given the Government option. We have said "reasonable" in our resolution and Government can judge what is reasonable in each case. So we have left the field quite wide open to them to fix any percentage they like. It is always easy to find excuses but if they are earnest about it there will be no difficulty in carrying out the resolution by fixing a percentage which they consider reasonable for the officials whose salary is concerned.

The other point that the Honourable Finance Member brought out was, how long this would be done. That is quite clear: as long as the depression lasts and he as the Finance Member is the best judge of the depression having gone. He must know when the depression is over and as soon as the depression is over this can be given up; it can be given up even a few days before that. To ask how long it is to continue is begging the question. He himself must know it more correctly than anybody else in this House being in charge of the finances of the province. It does not require any great expert knowledge to know when the depression is over. Everybody knows when the depression of his house is over and if that is the case then this can be given up.

(*At this stage Mr. President resumed the Chair*).

As my friend from Amritsar has already made it clear, in England the Ministers have reduced their salary by 10 per cent. This fact has been admitted by the Finance Member though he says he is not sure about it, and has read only in the papers. Every paper has published the news and there is no doubt about it that the Cabinet Ministers there have made a voluntary surrender of 10 per cent. of their salaries.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No, they have not done so. (*Several voices* : They have done so).

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : During the war it is well known that both the Financial Commissioners received a portion of their pay which they called allowance for working as Under Secretaries in the Revenue Department, and during the war period they gave it up of their own accord.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : That statement is quite incorrect.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I am referring to the allowance that they were getting.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Your statement is incorrect. They drew no allowance.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Is it not a fact that during the war period they gave up their allowance?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend [Financial Commissioner]: They never got any allowances and therefore they gave up none.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : And during the war they were not Under Secretaries to Government.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : If they did not, then there is an opportunity for them to do it now.

The other observation which the Honourable Finance Member has made is this, that the Government should ask rich people to give a portion of their income. But the people for whom we are pleading—perhaps we will put a resolution to that effect—are those who have been hard hit by the fall in prices, and if it is to give relief to them a portion of this money will be utilised in meeting that relief. Besides if Government wants to levy a contribution or subscription from wealthy people they should bring forward a resolution and we will discuss it on its merit. But why should you say that instead of asking the officials we must ask the public? Government has always raised subscriptions, and if it wants the help of this Council this Council will consider the question on its merits, but just now when we are asking you to ask the officials to make a voluntary surrender of their salaries, I do not see any relevancy in the answer that the wealthy people should be asked. This is no argument. When the zamindars are in the grip of great stringency, when they are starving, when those people are going without clothes looking at the sky, looking at the money-lenders, and when we are recommending that you should remit a portion of their revenue, then you say where is the money to come from and when we suggest the source you say it is not definite and it is very difficult and the period is not specified and so on. When you are in the midst of depression such things, such minor points can be solved by yourselves and they are not very difficult and everything should be done in order to meet this financial stringency and in order to give relief to the zamindars and others who need it. With these words I support this resolution.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, there were two speeches delivered in opposition to the resolution which is before the House at the present moment. The last gentleman who spoke on that side was

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the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. When he was delivering his speech he said that this depression was not going to last for ever. I put to him a direct question, asking him how he made that statement. Instead of answering a straight question in a straight way, the Honourable Minister stated that the answer to this question was not to be found in the law books. No, Sir, it is not to be found in the law books. It is to be found in the book of commonsense, a book which cannot be lent, a book which teaches you to intelligently read the forces that are at work at the present time. And I did expect that the Honourable Minister for Agriculture will give us some facts and figures, some intelligent reading of the present situation and the situation which is to follow on the authority of which he made that statement that this depression is not going to last for ever. I will try to enlighten the Honourable Minister for Agriculture that so far as we can read the situation to-day we find that this depression is going to last for a very long time. I ask him particularly to take note of the fact and to reply if he possibly can—through somebody else if he has not got the right of speaking again—to reply to the argument which I am going to advance, that so far as the present depression is concerned, what remedy the Government has got in view. I observe that my Honourable friend, the Minister for Local Self-Government, is taking down notes for his speech and I would therefore like to put to him certain questions. (*The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang*: Do put). Now, the present situation as we find to-day is that there are thousands of unemployed in England. (*A voice*: Millions). There are millions of unemployed in various other countries in Europe. There are any number of unemployed people here in India and other Asiatic countries. That is the situation. On the other hand, as the Honourable Minister for Agriculture stated, so far as the production is concerned, the production has not decreased. It has increased. These are the two outstanding facts, increase in the productions of the world and increase in unemployment of various people living all over the world. How are you going to meet the situation that has been created by these modern tendencies. I submit that if the modern tendencies persist, there would be a very large addition to the number of unemployed. Unemployment is not going to decrease, but is going to increase, whereas production will go on increasing too. Why?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: Does the honourable member mean by unemployed those who cannot get work or who have got leisure?

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit: I think I shall have to explain even this elementary thing. The statement made by me is this, that production so far as the necessaries of life are concerned, that production is on a larger scale than it was ever before. On the other side, there is a very large number of unemployed people, people who are willing to work, people who are ready to work, but who cannot find work and cannot find wages and therefore have not the means of livelihood. Why is that? The Sardar Sahib is surprised at this state of affairs which he cannot possibly contemplate. This is the age of machinery, this is the age of capitalism. Where at one time one thousand people used to work and produce one thousand maunds, let us say, of goods, to-day it is possible for ten persons to produce one thousand maunds of goods. The result is that 990 people are thrown

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out of employment. Sardar Sahib will not question this statement, that it is the age of scientific invention and machinery. The result of it is the throwing out of work of a very large number of people and leaving them utterly helpless and at the mercy of the rich individuals. The Honourable Finance Member, unconsciously I should say, was talking of socialism when he was saying, " Why do you want to tax the Government servants only? There are rich people in this province whom you have not yet approached, and unless you first make an appeal to those rich people you cannot possibly ask the Government servants to surrender a part of their salary." That was one of the arguments utilised by the Honourable Finance Member to defeat the resolution which has been put forward by my honourable friend. Now, he was talking of pure socialism. He said, " First go to the rich people. Tax them, take away from them whatever is superfluous." We heartily welcome a suggestion of that kind. Tax the rich people to your utmost capacity. I think this House, excepting a few honourable members who have got one thousand or two thousand acres of land on whom the burden will fall, except those people, the House will give its whole hearted support if the Government were to come with a proposal, which will touch the pockets of the rich, of those people who have got goods of the world in greater abundance than the other people, namely, the poor classes. In the class of rich people we include Government servants. Most of them to-day are untouched by the economic depression which is prevailing all over the province. They are the only people who have not been in any way affected by the fall in prices. Fall in prices has really benefited them. So far as the professional classes are concerned, so far as the agriculturists are concerned, so far as industry is concerned, everybody has been affected by the present economic situation and depression. It is only the Government servants, people who draw regulated salaries—it may be under the statute, it may be under any other arrangements made by the Government—it is only the Government servants who are not adversely affected, not only not adversely affected, but they are beneficially affected. Because the price of commodities has fallen down, they can purchase more with the amount of money which they draw now. That is the situation. The resolution merely asks Government to show some indication that it has got sympathy with the proposal of the people, that the Government servants are alive to the situation and that they welcome any attempt on the part of the Government to cut down the salaries of the Government officials, or at any rate of those officials who do not merely draw bare subsistence allowance. That is the real meaning of the resolution put forward by my honourable friend, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Amin Khan. It is ridiculous to say, " Well, we cannot go hat in hand to people, we cannot ask them to give us fifty rupees or hundred rupees and so on by way of charity." That is not the meaning of the resolution. The meaning of the resolution is that the Government should indicate that it realises the situation that has arisen in the province to-day and so far as it is concerned and so far as the Government officials are concerned, they are prepared to make a surrender of a portion of their salaries or to bring their salaries into line with the situation that exists at the present time. That is the meaning of the resolution. The Honourable Finance Member said that

we should proceed in a constitutional manner, and the same argument was advanced by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. It was said that we should proceed in a constitutional manner. Is this an unconstitutional manner? Unconstitutional and unlawful manners are entirely different things. These apply to people who are in possession of arms and revolvers and who organise dacoities. They know how to proceed in an unconstitutional manner. But, is this asking the Government to give an indication of its sympathy with the resolution in question, is this an unconstitutional manner of proceeding? The Honourable Finance Member said that unconstitutional methods are three; first, that the Government should by regulation or otherwise bring down the salary. What are we asking? Under the constitution we cannot touch, we cannot legislate for what are called the all-India services. What is the method open to us, but to ask the Government to vote for this resolution and give an indication of its sympathy? If they do so, and if some socialist members in the British Parliament were to bring forward a motion or a resolution or legislation to cut down the high salaries drawn by the All-India Services, they will be able to say to them, "See, here are the Punjab Officials of the all-India services as well as of the provincial services who are ready to meet the situation and vote for this resolution. Therefore there should be no argument brought forward that the services will resist any cut in their salaries." If this resolution is accepted, it would strengthen our hands so far as the all-India services are concerned.

Then, the Honourable Finance Member referred to the income-tax. But income-tax we know touches only the fringe of the population. Taxes are meant for all kinds of people and if an income-tax is proposed, the local Government can give its full support to it. But even here the Honourable Finance Member spoke of the income-tax in a halting way, because he said that he had no authority for making that statement, but he understood that there was going to be some sort of change in the income-tax law. If that change is coming, where is the harm if you vote for this resolution? That again would be an additional argument in the hands of the Government to tax the rich by passing such a law.

Then there was another argument used by the Honourable Finance Member which I could not understand. He said that these prices are not going to last long and that so far as the Punjab Government is concerned it has faced far worse conditions. The Punjab Government might have faced worse conditions. But what about the people who are passing through a critical economic depression? I can give the names of thousands of people who at one time were in affluent circumstances but now cannot get even two meals a day, big zamindars, rich traders, everybody has suffered. The Government's point of view is how to balance the budget. It may sell public lands for the time being and get a temporary relief, it may impose temporary taxation. Sometime past there was a sudden increase in prices, and there was an increase in the salaries of the officials. The Lee Commission made certain recommendations with regard to all India services and the Government here made recommendations with regard to certain other services which were under its control. Did they at that time limit these increases to a certain period? Did they say that

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so long as these prices stay at such and such a stage these increases will endure only for that time? Did they say so? I ask the Honourable Finance Member and other persons, why were these increases made? Is there any justification for you now to say that you will not surrender or give up that increase which was made at that time when the prices have fallen far lower than what they were at any time. Therefore, this argument brought forward by the Honourable Finance Member does not hold water in the least and therefore I will submit that the real object of this resolution is not to ask the Honourable Finance Member to take his hat in hand and go from door to door asking people to give some portion of their charity. No, emphatically no. That is not the object. The object is to show a change in the mental attitude of the Government, to show, that time has come when the Government should realise that it is in sympathy with the wishes of the people. Sir, I may say this and it has been said repeatedly that so far as the services in India are concerned they are the best paid in the world, most extravagantly paid in the world. One never hears of such high salaries in France, in Japan, in Germany and even in England these services are much less paid than they are paid here at the present time. Much abler men draw far less salaries than they are drawing here in India; and on what grounds. The ground is only this, the voice of the people is weak. That voice is making itself heard everywhere now and if the Government takes its courage in both its hands and shows that they are now prepared to make an all round cut nobody's jealousy will be exicited, nobody will feel that he is hurt. It is on this ground therefore that the Government should have gladly accepted the resolution put forward by my friend, Malik Muhammad Amin Khan and therefore I ask the Government Members who are going to speak to this resolution that they should not oppose this resolution and should be prepared to say that they are prepared to make a cut all round which will touch those people who have got the goods of the world in abundance. (*Hear, hear*).

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government): It might look strange to some people that I should get up and oppose this resolution, but I assure you that had the resolution been put in a proper form I might have adopted a different course from what I am going to do. But the resolution as it stands, is open to many objections inspite of the explanations given by my very learned friend Pandit Nanak Chand. Now what does this resolution say? It proceeds, to begin with, on the hypothesis, that there is great depression in the land.

Mr. President: May I know in what form the resolution would be acceptable to the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: I am not here to act as a legal adviser or adviser in drafting a resolution of this House. If anybody approaches me in a proper way I may be in a position to give advice, but not here.

Pir Akbar Ali: On payment?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: I am accustomed to that (*Laughter*), otherwise legal advice is of no value. As a lawyer the honourable member ought to know this. In the first place it has been assumed that there is great depression in this province at the present moment.

Thus it is asked that so long as that depression lasts the Government should be asked to make a request to those of its employees whose salaries cannot be reduced. I submit that the first assumption that there is such a great depression in the province that the Government should be called upon to make that request is not justified. How do we judge of the prosperity of a province? (*Sir Henry Craik:* By its credit). Its credit is the first thing. Just as in the case of an individual whose financial position in the first instance is judged by the credit that he commands in the market, so in the case of a society, a company or any commerical organization and also in the case of a Government which is the highest form of organization in the modern times, the soundness or unsoundness of its financial position must be judged by its credit. No one in this House can have the temerity to get up and say that the credit of the Punjab Government has fallen low even by a little bit. The loans that have been floated at the instance of the Punjab Government have been taken up without the slightest hesitation or demur.

Mr. P. Mukerji : May I ask you at what rate of interest?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : A rate of interest which compares very favourably with the rate of interest which can be secured by private individuals, at a much more favourable rate. I am glad my learned friend is a representative of a commerical organization and though of course I cannot lay any claims to being an expert on commerical matters, I am not an utter stranger to matters commerical. He should understand that financial conditions and money market in this province cannot be compared with the financial conditions in England. There three per cent. is considered a fair rate of interest, but here nobody would think of investing his money at 3 per cent. except perhaps when the person does not know anything at all as to the use of his money.

Mr. P. Mukerji : Will the Honourable Minister tell me what is the interest paid by a good *sahukar* in the market? Does he pay more than 4½ per cent?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : Co-operative Banks are receiving deposits not only at 6 per cent., but sometime at a much higher rate of interest and then even people hesitate to deposit, their money in these banks. They are investing money with Government at a much lower rate of interest. I know for certain that one of the Co-operative Banks was calling for deposits at 7 per cent. It has been advertising. I have one instance just now before me. Therefore so far as the credit of the Government is concerned it is not at all affected.

Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : The question is whether the Government does not borrow at a higher rate of interest than a *sahukar* pays to another?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : Not at all. There may be exceptional cases in a village where perhaps there is nothing doing in commerical concerns, there may be a respectable *sahukar* with whom people may deposit money at Re. 0-8-0 per cent., but certainly people will not lend money to a private person at less than 12 annas per cent. per mensem. That is the usual rate of interest for all people and I know there must be some

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honourable members of this House who would find it difficult to raise money even at 12 per cent.

Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : I was talking of commèrical classes.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : The honourable members of this House are very honourable and their credits should not be despised. Next means of judging the financial position is how a person lives. Has he reduced his establishment? Has he sold away his motor car, has he reduced the number of his servants, has he reduced the number of lights, and so on? Let us now see whether any of the institutions of the Government have been closed. Has any hospital been closed, has any school been closed, have any people been turned out from Government service (*Voices :* Yes). Only when they were not required. That is a measure of wise statesmanship. No one would keep, even if one were a millionaire, he would not keep a man more than he requires. But the question is whether these people have been turned out because the Government's finances have gone so low, that these men have been turned out because the Government cannot afford to pay for them. (*Interruption*). Perhaps where it was considered that the rate of travelling allowance was rather high it was reduced. I think travelling allowances of all the members of the Government have been reduced by 25 per cent.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : Why ?

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Why not salaries ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : Perhaps it was considered that the rate was rather high.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : What about the salaries ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chaad Narang : We are coming to the salaries. Then, Sir, the resolution has been put in a form which is wrong. What is the Government asked to do, to make a request, you are not asked to compel anyone or force anyone to forego his pay. Now let us analyse this a little. Probably honourable members of this House have not given sufficient thought to the implications of this form of request. Now let us see. Here is the Honourable Finance Member. He has so many departments under him. Let us take the police. There are some high paid police officers under him whose salaries cannot be reduced owing to the contracts with them. He goes to a Superintendent of Police, a member of the Indian Police Service, and says, " Now look here, the members of the Council have passed a resolution that I should make a request to you that you are to make a voluntary surrender of a certain percentage of your salary." He says I will think over it. Then he does not make any surrender. What happens to the Honourable Finance Member? Is that request a mere request ? A request from a superior officer is tantamount to an order (*A voice :* Certainly not). Certainly it is. If I request a subordinate of mine and he does not carry out my request I will feel slighted, if not insulted. It will be a slight and no officer would like to put himself in that awkward position. Do you want that the Government members or the Government in the abstract form should issue instructions in the form of a request that as the Council

has passed a resolution all the officers whose salaries cannot be reduced may kindly make a voluntary surrender of a part of their salaries. You can imagine the effect of it. It is either an order or it is not and the mere fact that the word request has been used would not, in any camouflage impress anybody. If it is carried out it will be carried out because a subordinate does not like to give an impression to his superior officer that he has not obeyed his request or his order and he will always have a smarting feeling in his mind. If he does not carry it out, well, the superior will feel slighted and the subordinate will continue to feel that he has not carried out the request of his superior officer and Heaven knows what effect it might produce on the mind of the superior and at what time the superior officer might not injure him, or in any case there may be occasions when he expects some slight concessions, some slight favours or some slight amenities from his superior officer and he will not get them. This will have its effect both on the superior officer and his subordinate.

Next I would put it to you whether it is good policy. Here are your agents to carry on the administration on your behalf. If you keep them pleased they will work better for you and if you would suggest to them fresh avenues of income probably they would co-operate with you with all their heart and soul. It has never occurred to you that there are other sources by which the financial resources of this province could be strengthened. It has not occurred to you to suggest any and to keep these agents of yours in good humour and get their assistance. I have spoken from the floor of this House several times in the interest of industries. Have you ever made any proposal for the development of industries? Have you ever made any proposal that things which are imported from countries to whom we have no obligations and with whom there are no reciprocal relations or any considerations of imperial preference, that those imports should be taxed? (*An honourable member* : What is its relevancy here?) I shall just show its relevancy, if you will try to understand it. If you will not or even if you try and yet not understand it, the fault is not mine. There are so many things that can be done to remove this depression. Assuming that there is such a depression, it would not be necessary to call upon your agents who are carrying on the administration for you to make any voluntary surrender at all.

Again, I would say, is this a request that you are making when you have got to decide the thing by votes and you feel that you have the majority on your side? Is it proper to call it a request? Is it not an order? Do you not thereby put your agents in an awkward position when you pass a resolution and leave it to them to carry it out or not to carry it out. There used to be a judicial officer here who was very polite indeed. I believe you knew him personally. He also acted for a long time as a Magistrate and sometime as a Sessions Judge. Whenever he addressed even a litigant in his court he addressed him as "*Hazoor*" Even when he passed a sentence of rigorous imprisonment and fine against an accused he would say : "*Hazoor ko do sal qaid aur panch sau jurmana.*" That is how he always pronounced his sentences. (*An honourable member :* We do not follow the relevancy of this reference). I was only trying to show that it is not a request that you are making to the Government, not a mere recommendation but it is a real order passed with the consciousness that you have got the power to pass the resolution.

Mr. President : But a resolution is a recommendation to Government and the resolution, under discussion, is in that form.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : I know that this is a recommendation in form to the Government to make a request to its officers whose salaries cannot be reduced to make a voluntary surrender of a reasonable portion of their salaries as long as this depression lasts. I was submitting that this was not a recommendation but that it was really a threat, that it was really putting pressure. Supposing you have got the power to carry the resolution, you are by passing the resolution, placing the officers and members of Government in a most awkward position. (*An honourable member* : How ?) Because it will be a recommendation which the Government will find it extremely hard and extremely improper to carry out. If the resolution is passed and if the Government does not make the request you will come down upon the Government and say that the resolution was passed but not carried out by them. (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq* : What will happen ?) What will happen would be this. At least those Members of Government who feel conscientiously that it is their duty to carry out the behests of this House would find themselves in an extremely awkward position. Supposing I make the request to an officer whose salary cannot be reduced. He says : I cannot afford to make this sacrifice ; I have several obligations and several commitments ; I have my father's debts to discharge and so on. (*An honourable member* : Then keep quiet.) Then, why not keep quiet even now ! Why put Members of Government in an awkward position, impose a duty upon them which they cannot carry out. (*An honourable member* : Resign). It is no question of resigning or not resigning. Are you justified in asking your agents to do a thing which properly speaking they are not in a position to carry out ? That is the position which I will put before you. Will you be doing the wise thing in pressing this resolution against Government ? I feel sure that a request like this should not be made and if made, could not be carried out. If the request is made, an awkward position arises ; if it is not, an equally awkward position arises. If it is made and not complied with, a much more awkward position arises. There is another point. At this time we are on the threshold of a new era. Power is just now passing from a certain set of people into our own hands. If the power is passing into Indian hands, do not at this juncture give the impression to those whom you are asking that if the power should be transferred to you that you will not deal fairly with their agents who are serving India on their behalf. (*An honourable member :* It is not unfair). It is. It is bad policy and those who have been to the Round Table Conference would probably agree with me that it would be bad policy. Recruitment to these services is made in England, and if it is known that you are either by a resolution or by legislation or by putting this pressure by mass force upon them to make this voluntary surrender of part of their salaries it will not have a good effect. If you are wise and if you do not want to create a bad impression upon those with whom power still exists—it has not passed on to you yet, remember—if you want that power to pass on to you, do not take such a rash step and thereby create the impression that if power entirely passes on to you, you will abuse it, make it impossible for these people to remain in this country even when they are here under certain contracts or covenants and are carrying out their duties faithfully. I would, therefore, advise the honourable mover to withdraw the resolution.

Pir Akbar Ali : I move—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"This Council recommends to the Government that all officials whose salaries cannot be reduced by the Local Government should be requested to make a voluntary surrender of a reasonable portion of their salaries for the period of this depression.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : May I say a word of explanation on this point. I may apologise to the House for being caught unawares—

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : On a point of order. The question has been put to the House and no explanation could be allowed at this stage.

Mr. President : The question cannot be said to have been fully put unless the ayes and noes have been collected. Before the ayes and noes have been collected even if the question has been put the debate continues and in special cases the Chair might allow not only a Member of Government but any member of the House to speak.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : In this case you have collected the ayes and the noes.

Mr. President : I recollect I collected the ayes but not the noes when the Honourable Finance Member got up.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have no desire whatever to say a word on the merits of the resolution. I recognise I have no right to do that at this stage. I merely wish to explain what the attitude of Government on this division will be. There is a very healthy tradition in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords that members do not take part in the division on a question in which they have any personal interest. Following that tradition, no official member of the House will take any part in this division. That is all I wish to say. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. President : The question is :

"This Council recommends to the Government that all officials whose salaries cannot be reduced by the Local Government should be requested to make a voluntary surrender of a reasonable portion of their salaries for the period of this depression."

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION *RE* RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

Pir Akbar Ali (Ferozepur, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I beg to move—

"This Council recommends to the Government to appoint a retrenchment committee with a majority of elected members of the Punjab Council for making immediate suggestions for curtailing the provincial expenditure with a view to bringing it to the level of the present poor financial condition of the province."

This resolution contemplates three things. Firstly, it asks for the appointment of a retrenchment committee. Secondly, it requires the committee to make immediate suggestions for curtailing provincial expenditure and thirdly, it asks for curtailing the provincial expenditure with a view to bringing it to the level of the present poor financial condition of the province. During the last two or three years there have come into existence

[Pir Akbar Ali.]
certain extraordinary circumstances. In one part of the province the people have suffered great losses on account of floods. Many villages have been washed away. The Government had, therefore, to suspend the payment of land revenue in those areas. In another part of the province people suffered on account of famine. Consequently there also the payment of land revenue was suspended. Besides, during the last one or two years crops greatly suffered from extreme cold. The Government had to incur heavy expenditure on account of these acts of God. Moreover, there has been an abnormal fall in prices of agricultural produce. Now, matters have come to such a pass that the zamindars cannot even pay the land revenue. They have been paying it with great difficulty. But now their case has become hopeless. They are deprived of their resources. In order to satisfy Government demands they have been selling their cattle, ornaments and household effects. Even the money-lenders refuse to help them because the debtors have not been able to pay their loans. (*An honourable member*: The zamindar should curtail his expenses). I will come to that point later. It is wrong to say that the zamindar is extravagant. He is not living a luxurious life. He is not building spacious houses or buying motor cars. It is now very hard time for him. He cannot keep his body and soul together. The whole family including children toil the whole day and yet they cannot make their two ends meet. It is on account of these extraordinary circumstances that I feel that a retrenchment committee should be appointed which should make immediate suggestions for curtailing provincial expenditure. The zamindars are in the grip of evil times. They have left no stone unturned to maintain their loyal traditions. In some cases they have even sold their daughters for paying the revenue demand and have always avoided incurring the displeasure of Government. They have nothing except their loyalty to the Crown which may or may not pay them in the long run. They will have to sell their lands for payment of revenue. If this process is adopted, it will be the Government which will suffer the most, for lands will go into the hands of people who know nothing about agriculture or at any rate who will learn agriculture after a great deal of time. The most important source of provincial income is land revenue. But now, as I have said, the zamindar is in great distress. It would, therefore, be in the fitness of things to curtail the provincial expenditure wherever it is necessary. Very large reductions can be made in the expenditure of the various Government departments. For instance, in the Public Works Department 50 per cent. reduction can very easily be made in its expenditure. I say reduction should be made according to prevailing circumstances. The Public Works Department spends Rs. 300 on a work which will costs only Rs. 25 if done by a private agency. In reply to a question Government stated to-day that about Rs. 328 were spent on kutcha roads per mile. I think this figure is incorrect because the Public Works Department ordinarily spends about Rs. 1,200 per mile. The district board spends only Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 per mile. Inspite of that, I can say that the district board roads, if not better, are at least as good as those in charge of the Public Works Department. I have shown this to an officer who now occupies official benches. I hope he would support my statement.

At this stage the Council adjourned till 2 P.M. on Friday, 27th February 1931.

373 PLC—600—18-3-31—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 27th February 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Muslim Assistant District Inspectors of Schools, Rawalpindi.

***61. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Muslim Assistant District Inspectors of Schools in the Rawalpindi division who are yet working in Rs. 80—4—100 grade ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : Six.

Muslim teachers in A.-V. Secondary Schools, Rawalpindi.

***62. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of cases pending in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, relating to confirmation or grant of increment to Muslim teachers working in Government or Board A.-V. Secondary Schools ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon :

(*a*)	Confirmation cases	..	..	..	11
(*b*)	Increment cases	..	..	..	4

Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi.

***63. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of cases occurring between 1st June, 1929 and 31st December, 1930, in each district of the Rawalpindi division in which the Inspector of Schools made an appointment or transfer of an English teacher in a Board A.-V. Secondary School without the previous consultation or concurrence of the district board or its chairman ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi.

***64. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim teachers separately who have been punished by the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, during the period from 1st June 1929 to 31st December 1930, by (*a*) transfer, (*b*) stoppage of increment, (*c*) reprimand ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

*65. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Rawalpindi division—

(*a*) the number of private recognised Hindu, Sikh and Muslim Anglo-Vernacular Secondary Schools separately;

(*b*) the number of new Hindu, Sikh and Muslim Schools recommended by the Inspector of Schools for recognition?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: (*a*) The information will be found in the list of recognised Anglo-Vernacular Schools published by the Education Department every year.

(*b*) The reports are confidential.

AIDED SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

*66. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district of the Rawalpindi division—

(*a*) the number of private aided Hindu, Sikh and Muslim Anglo-Vernacular Secondary Schools separately;

(*b*) the number of new Hindu, Sikh and Muslim Schools recommended by the present Inspector of Schools for grant-in-aid?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: The honourable member is referred to my answer to the preceding question which also applies to this case.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

*67. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the names of Islamia Schools in the Rawalpindi division which have been refused recognition or grant-in-aid by the present Inspector of Schools?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: No Islamia school has been refused recognition or grant-in-aid by the present Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division.

BOARD HIGH SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

*68. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Hindu and Muslim headmasters of Board High Schools in the Rawalpindi division, showing the aggregate monthly salary drawn by Hindus and Muslims separately?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon:

Number of headmasters.	*Aggregate monthly salary drawn by them.*
	Rs.
Hindus—2	370
Muhammadan—1	140

HEADMASTERS OF BOARD HIGH SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***69. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the grade of pay fixed for the headmasters of Board High Schools in the Rawalpindi division several years ago by Mr. J. L. Wilson, the then Inspector of Schools ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that one of the Hindu headmasters of Board High Schools has been given a higher grade by the present Inspector of Schools ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Rs. 140—10—190.

(*b*) Yes. The grade was provided by the district board on its own initiative. It was given to the Hindu headmaster as he was by far senior to any other headmaster in the division.

DIVISIONAL, DEPUTY AND DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***70. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the total amount of travelling allowance drawn by the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Deputy Inspector of Schools, and the District Inspector of Schoo's, Rawalpindi, separately for the six summer months from April to September 1930, on account of journeys and halts at Murree for the inspection of schools and other official trips ;

(*b*) the number of high, middle and primary schools in or round about Murree seen by each officer separately during these months ;

(*c*) whether it is a part of the ordinary duty of a Divisional Inspector of Schools to inspect vernacular middle, lower middle and primary schools situated in a hill area ;

(*d*) how many middle or primary schools not situated in the Murree tahsil were inspected during the last year by the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon :

		Rs.	A.	P.
(*a*)	1. Inspector of Schools	303	5	0
	2. Deputy Inspector	126	11	0
	3. District Inspector	314	12	0

(*b*) *Name of officer.*	*High.*	*Middle.*	*Primary.*	*Total.*
Inspector of Schools	1	5	3	9
Deputy Inspector	1	2	3	6
District Inspector	..	12	10	22

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) About twenty-five.

DIVISIONAL ANGLO-VERNACULAR MIDDLE EXAMINATION, RAWALPINDI.

***71. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Anglo-Vernacular Middle examination in the Rawalpindi division was started some years ago with the consent of the District Headmasters' Associations ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this question was re-considered in 1930 and a majority of the District Headmasters' Associations in the division voted against the continuance of the examination ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that contrary to the opinion of the majority of the District Headmasters' Associations, the Inspector of Schools issued an order to continue the examination ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, but only three (out of six) district associations voted against the continuance of the examination.

(*c*) Yes, the members of the Divisional Educational Association left the matter to the discretion of the Inspector and the latter issued a circular intimating the continuance of the examination in 1931.

EXAMINATION FEES.

***72. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the headmaster of a private high school in Rawalpindi has been holding the office of Secretary of the Divisional Association and conducting the Divisional Anglo-Vernacular Middle examination for three years ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the appointment of head examiners and subordinate examiners has been made by or on the advice of the same gentleman ;

(*c*) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim head and subordinate examiners appointed during the three years separately for English, Mathematics, Urdu, History and Geography ;

(*d*) the aggregate remuneration paid in each year to Hindu, Sikh and Muslim examiners in each district ;

(*e*) the amount of remuneration paid each year to the Secretary of the Divisional Association, his school clerk and the stenographer of the Divisional Inspector ;

(*f*) the rate of fee charged from each candidate appearing in the examination and whether the head of the department has sanctioned it ;

(*g*) the agency which spends the amounts collected from the examinees ;

(*h*) whether the expenditure on the examination and other purposes is subject to any audit or departmental check ;

(i) the amount of the accumulated balance up to date in the Divisional Examination fund ;

(j) the purposes for which it is proposed to spend the large surplus in the fund ;

(k) whether the expenditure for purposes other than the Divisional Examination has received the sanction of the head of the department ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (a) Yes, he was unanimously elected and re-elected Secretary of the Divisional Association.

(b) No.

(c) Required information is given in statement 'A' laid on the table.

(d) Required information is given in statement 'B' laid on the table.

(e) Required information is given below :—

Year.	Amount of remuneration paid to		
	Secretary.	Secretary's confidential clerk.	Inspector's Stenographer.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1928	500	150	120
1929	500	200	40
1930	500	200	100

(f) Rate of fee charged was Rs. 6 per candidate in 1928 and 1929 and Rs. 5 in 1930. For those appearing in English only Rs. 3. The sanction of the head of the department was not applied for.

(g) The Divisional Educational Association controls the expenditure and the Inspector is the operator of the fund.

(h) The accounts are not checked by the department ; they are audited as directed by the Divisional Educational Association.

(i) Rs. 8,141-2-6.

(j) Rs. 720 are being paid annually as scholarships, one in each district. Rs. 300 annually are being given as aid to the District Headmasters' Associations. Rs. 2,000 were sanctioned for the Divisional Library and collection in 1929 and Rs. 1,500 in 1930. No other expenditure has yet been decided upon by the Divisional Educational Association.

(k) No ; it is sanctioned by the Divisional Educational Association.

[Hon. Malik Feroz Khan, Noon.]

STATEMENT A.

Subject.	1928.				1929.				1930.			
	MUSLIMS.		NON-MUSLIMS.		MUSLIMS.		NON-MUSLIMS.		MUSLIMS.		NON-MUSLIMS.	
	Head.	Subordinate.	Head.	Subordinate.	Head.	Subordinate.	Head.	Subordinate.	Head.	Subordinate.	Head.	Subordinate.
English ..	1	5	1	7	..	4	2	8	..	3	2	9
Mathematics ..	1	4	1	8	..	3	2	9	1	4	1	8
Urdu ..	2	8	..	2	2	6	..	4	2	7	..	3
History ..	1	1	..	5	1	2	..	4	1	3	..	3
Geography ..	1	2	..	4	..	1	1	5	..	2	1	4

STATEMENT B.

	1928.	1929.	1930.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
GUJRAT DISTRICT.			
Hindus	218 0 0	745 12 0	701 12 0
Muslims	470 8 0	581 0 0	469 8 0
Sikhs	..	..	100 4 0
JHELUM DISTRICT.			
Hindus	90 0 0	321 12 0	103 4 0
Muslims	378 8 0	315 12 0	630 8 0
Sikhs	72 8 0	101 4 0	93 0 0
SHAHPUR DISTRICT.			
Hindus	267 12 0	949 12 0	589 12 0
Muslims	448 6 0	387 12 0	465 12 0
Sikhs	263 4 0	..	94 0 0

STATEMENT B—CONTINUED.

	1928.	1929.	1930.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.			
Hindus	932 4 0	1,553 12 0	1,289 12 0
Muslims	380 4 0	473 0 0	360 8 0
Sikhs	335 12 0	416 12 0	792 0 0
MIANWALI DISTRICT.			
Hindus	455 12 0	205 0 0	201 4 0
Muslims	509 4 0	215 4 0	392 0 0
Sikhs	88 12 0	..	..
ATTOCK DISTRICT.			
Hindus	173 0 0	301 8 0	219 4 0
Muslims	294 0 0	555 4 0	454 0 0

DISTRIBUTION OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION FROM VARIOUS CANALS.

*73. **Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state how much quantity of water is allotted for every one thousand acres on—

(*i*) the Upper Jhelum,
(*ii*) the Lower Jhelum,
(*iii*) the Upper Chenab,
(*iv*) the Lower Chenab,
(*v*) the Upper Bari Doab,
(*vi*) the Lower Bari Doab, and
(*vii*) the Nili Bar Canals ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The table below gives the capacity allowances at outlets in cusecs per thousand acres of Culturable Commanded Area :—

Upper Chenab Canal.

Perennial Channels	2·70
Kharif Channels, Raya Branch and Main Line Lower ..	3·75
Nokhar Branch	2·97

Lower Chenab Canal.

Perennial Channels with exceptions noted below—

Proprietary Areas	1·90
Colony Areas	2·84

Exception.

Sultan Pakhra Feeder Bhangu Branch and Dhaular Distributary (below R. D. 125,000) Proprietary	1·78
Sultan Pakhra Feeder Bhangu Branch and Dhaular Distributary (below R. D. 125,000) Colony ..	2·94

[Hon. Captain Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan,]

Certain outlets in Jhang division—

Proprietary	2·30
Colony	3·80
Kharif Channels	6·25

Upper Jhelum Canal.

Perennial Areas—

Bar	3·03
Maira	2·28
Khadir	1·71
Kharif Areas	3·25

Lower Jhelum Canal.

Colony Areas	2·84
Khadir Proprietary Areas	1·51
Lower Bari Doab Canal except Gugera Branch ..	3·33
Gugera Branch	3·00

Full Supply Factors and intensities are different for different Distributaries of the *Upper Bari Doab Canal* but on the average 3 cusecs is allowed for 1,000 acres of Culturable Commanded Area.

Nili Bar Canals.

	Cusecs.
Perennial	2·75
Non-perennial	5·3

ACREAGE RATE ON THE NILI BAR.

***74. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether acreage rate is collected from the temporary lessees on the Nili Bar,

(*b*) whether it is not collected from the eventual owners of the land and if so, why ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. Not if it has already been collected in full.

CLOSURE OF CANALS.

***75. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to give details of closures due to breaches or otherwise in the Sutlej Valley perennial areas for 1928, 1929 and 1930 ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: It is regretted that the information required by the honourable member is not available in the Secretariat and has been called for from local officers. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MARKET VALUE OF LAND IN THE NILI BAR.

*76. **Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state the market value of land in the Nili Bar at present ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : There have been no auctions of land in the Nili Bar recently from which the present market value could be estimated.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN TAHSIL TOBA TEK SINGH.

*77. **Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state how many High, Middle and Primary Government Schools exist in Toba Tek Singh tahsil ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : None.

CREATION OF TOBA TEK SINGH INTO A SUB-DIVISION.

*78. **Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government contemplates creating Toba Tek Singh into a sub-division ;

(*b*) If so, when ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Probably from the 1st April 1931, if the necessary funds are voted.

PROFESSION TAX, MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICT.

*79. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total sum of profession tax realised from (*i*) Alipur tahsil; (*ii*) in the Muzaffargarh district ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that Muzaffargarh is a very poor district ;

(*c*) if so, whether the Government intends to take any steps to relieve the poor inhabitants of this district from this heavy tax ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) Up to the 10th February 1931, Rs. 2,308 has been realised as profession tax for Alipur tahsil, and Rs. 2,388 from Muzaffargarh district. The totals assessed for the year are Rs. 6,602 and Rs. 24,304, respectively.

(*b*) Government is aware that Muzaffargarh is a comparatively poor district.

(*c*) As the Deputy Commissioner has asked the Commissioner to permit the district board of Muzaffargarh to review the assessment, owing to a number of complaints that have been received, the Government does not consider that further action at this stage is necessary.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRINTING PRESS WORKERS' UNION.

*80. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government Printing Press Workers' Union, Lahore, applied to the Punjab Government for the recognition of the Union ?

(*b*) If so, when was the application made ?

(*c*) Has the Union been recognised ?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) be in the negative, will he kindly give reasons for not recognising the Union ?

(*e*) If the matter is still pending before the Government, will he kindly state reasons for the delay in not deciding it one way or the other ?

(*f*) When would the Government likely come to any decision in this respect ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 15th March 1930.

(*c*) No.

(*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) It has been ascertained that the Government of India are considering the question of formulating rules for the recognition of associations of Government servants of the artisan class and pending a decision on this subject Government has decided to postpone further consideration of the application from the Punjab Government Printing Press Workers' Union.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : May I ask whether at the time the application mentioned in the question was made any rules for the recognition of the Unions of Government servants were in existence or not ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I would like to have notice of that question.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRINTING PRESS HANDBOOK.

*81. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Government of India have lately revised the Government of India Printing Press Handbook ?

(*b*) If so, has the revised edition of the handbook been enforced in the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore ?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) be in the negative, will he kindly give reasons for not enforcing it as yet ?

(*d*) When is it likley to be enforced there ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Partly.

(*c*) It would not be practicable to introduce in their entirety into the Punjab Government Press rules which have been framed solely for the use of Government of India Presses.

(*d*) Does not arise.

"No work allowance."

*82. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that no 'no work allowance' is paid to the compositors of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore;

(*b*) whether it is not a fact that the allowance is paid in the Government of India Presses and those of the other local Governments in India;

(*ii*) Will he kindly give reasons for not paying it to the compositors mentioned in (*i*) (*a*)?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*i*) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The system of payment for "idle time" has been discontinued since July 1925 to all compositors in Government of India Presses recruited since that time, and recent annual reports show that now no expenditure is incurred under this head. No information is available as to the system in force in provinces, other than the United Provinces where no 'no work allowance' is paid to compositors.

(*ii*) Because it is not considered necessary in view of (*b*).

Mr. M. A. Ghani : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state the reasons for the impracticability of the introduction in their entirety of the rules in the Punjab Government Printing Press?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Because the conditions in the two places are different.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : May I ask in what way the conditions in the two printing presses are different?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Because we are not bound by the Government of India rules and procedure.

Salaries of the staff in the Lino and Mono Sections of the Punjab Government Press.

*83. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** (1) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the salaries of the operators of the lino section of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, have been lately reduced in order to bring them into line with those obtaining in the Government of India Presses;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the salaries of the operators of the mono section of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, have not been increased so as to bring them into line with those obtaining in the Government of India Presses?

(*c*) If so, will he kindly give reasons for reducing the salaries in one case and not increasing them in the other?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Working of the Punjab Government Press.

***84. Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the working of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, is carried on in accordance with the provisions contained in the Press Handbook issued by the Government of India ?

(*b*) If not, are there any special instructions and orders for the working of the Press issued by the Punjab Government ?

(*c*) If so, will he kindly place a copy of those instructions and orders on the table ?

(*d*) If the answers to (*b*) and (*c*) be in the negative, will he kindly give reasons for not giving the same amenities to the workers of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, as are given by the Government of India to the workers of their presses in accordance with the Press Handbook issued by the Government of India ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) These instructions are under revision.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Government quarters for piecehand employers, Government Press, Lahore.

***85. Mr. M. A. Ghani :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government quarters near Nawankot are not allowed to the piecehand employers of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore ?

(*b*) If so, will he kindly give reasons for not allowing the quarters to them ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The cottages are intended primarily for occupation by Indian clerks in permanent employ and having not less than 5 years' service.

Rest-houses and gardens attached to them.

***86. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of canal rest-houses in the Punjab ;

(*b*) the total area in acres attached to these rest-houses ;

(*c*) in how many cultivation is being carried on ;

(*d*) to how many of these a garden is attached and what is the total area under these gardens ;

(*e*) whether there is any income from this area ;

(*f*) if so, how much is from cultivation and how much from the gardens ;

(g) whether the Government can or cannot increase its income from these by leasing out the cultivable land ;

(h) if not, whether Government intend to increase the total charges for the supply of vegetables from Canal Rest-houses to all officers under paragraph 1·17 of the Irrigation Manual of Orders ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The information required is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

FLUME BRIDGES ON THE SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

***87. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of bridges called flume bridges built on the Sutlej Valley Project during the last four years ;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of them have needed repairs and many have failed altogether ;

(c) if so, how many have failed and how many repaired ;

(d) what was their total cost and how much has been spent on repairs ;

(e) whether it is a fact that flume pattern was employed without adequate test ;

(f) if so, why and who was responsible for its sanction ;

(g) if there has been so much loss, has any explanation been taken from the officer concerned ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The information required by the honourable member is not available in the Secretariat and has been called for from local officers. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

GOVERNMENT BUNGALOWS, LYALLPUR.

***88. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that more or less 12 acres of land are attached to most of the Government Bungalows (including irrigation) situated in the civil lines, Lyallpur ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in most cases the land attached is let for cultivation purposes on cash rent ;

(c) whether such amount goes into the pockets of the occupants or Government ;

(d) whether an officer living in a bungalow is allowed to make a profit out of this land ;

(e) if not, what action does the Government propose to take ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I regret that answer to this question is not yet ready. Information is being collected and a reply will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

OUTLETS.

*89. **Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that in all outlets that are shifted from one place to another or whose level is raised or design is altered on the application of zamindars, the cost is borne by the applicant ;

(*b*) Wheather it is a fact that an application is granted only if a defect in the supply of water is established after a thorough investigation by a responsible officer ;

(*c*) whether it is the duty or not of the department to keep the supply of water regular and without defect, and if so, why any charge at all is made from the zamindars ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes, but such charge is made only when the change is made in the interests of the applicant.

(*b*) No, it depends on the nature of the application.

(*c*) In cases of defective supply no charge is made from zamindars, the cost is borne by Government.

BELDARS AND MATES.

*90. **Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what was the number of beldars and mates employed to look after the motor road of the Upper Jhelum Canal in the year 1929-30 ;

(*b*) what was the total cost of upkeep of motor road ;

(*c*) what is the length of the main channel and cost of upkeep per mile ;

(*d*) how many persons make use of that road in a year ;

(*e*) has any reduction been made now in beldars and mates ;

(*f*) if so, what is the cost of upkeep per mile this year ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The answers to (*a*), (*b*) and (*f*) are approximations as accounts are not maintained to show separately the cost of maintaining patrol motor roads. The gangs employed are responsible for the maintenance of the canal and are required to keep the patrol bank fit for inspection service in addition to their other duties—

(*a*) Mates 9. Beldars 60.

(*b*) Rs. 12,500.

(*c*) Length of main channel 88 miles.

Cost of upkeep of channel per mile Rs. 426.

Cost of upkeep of motor road per mile Rs. 142.

(*d*) The number of cars permitted to use the canal road during the year was 550.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Cost of upkeep per mile of main channel Rs. 312.

Cost of upkeep per mile of motor road Rs. 97.

Mian Nurullah: In part (*d*) I asked for the number of persons using that road and not the number of cars.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I am afraid it will be difficult to give that information because a car may contain only one person or it may contain five.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Appointments in the Punjab Civil Secretariat.

31. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(*a*) the number of appointments made in the Punjab Civil Secretariat in the junior and senior grades of clerks in 1929 and 1930;

(*b*) how many of these appointments went to Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs and how many in each of the three groups were statutory agriculturists ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (*a*) and (*b*) The information is furnished in the statement below—

Year.	Number of appointments made to		Hindus.		Muslims.		Sikhs.		Europeans and Anglo-Indians.
	Senior grade.	Junior grade.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists	
1929 ..	11	..	..	2	6	1	..	..	2
	..	12	..	4	4	1	1	..	2
1930 ..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	..	7	1	1	3	1	..	1	..

Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

32. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons recruited in 1928, 1929 and 1930 classifying them as statutory agriculturists and others under each of the three heads ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : A statement containing the required information is laid on the table—

STATEMENT.

Rank.	1928.		1929.		1930.		Total.	
	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.
Assistant Surgeons ..	..	..	1*	..	†9	8	10	8
Sub-Assistant Surgeons ..	5	7	2‡	3§	1‡	4‡	8	14

* Promoted from the rank of Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

† Includes one promoted from the rank of Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

‡ Engaged as temporary Sub-Assistant Surgeons for one year only.

§ Includes two engaged as temporary Sub-Assistant Surgeons for one year only.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGES AND THEIR TEACHING STAFF.

33. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state in respect of the Government College at Lahore and Government Intermediate Colleges at Lyallpur, Gujrat and Rohtak, respectively—

(*a*) the average number of working days in the year ;

(*g*) the total amount of salaries paid to the staff annually ;

(*c*) the average number of periods which every member of the teaching staff (excluding oriental teachers) has to teach in a week ;

(*d*) the duration of a teaching period ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

34. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Hindus serving in the provincial and other grades of Educational Service from Rs. 110—135 upwards and the number of statutory agriculturists among them in each grade ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : The honourable member is referred to the Consolidated Annual Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been placed on the table.

WORKING DAYS IN HIGH COURT AND PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

35. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Chief Secretary kindly state the average number of working days in a year in (*a*) the High Court and (*b*) the Punjab Civil Secretariat ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd :—

	Average number of working days during the last three years.
(*a*) High Court	242
(*b*) Punjab Civil Secretariat	271

HIGH COURT JUDGES AND DISPOSAL OF CASES.

36. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) the number of High Court Judges (of all classes) in 1920 and 1930, respectively.

(*b*) the number of cases (of all classes) pending in the High Court on the 31st January 1930 and 31st January 1931, respectively .

(*c*) the number of cases (of all classes) disposed of by the High Court in 1920 and 1929, respectively ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I regret that the answer is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member as soon as it is ready.

ARCHITECT TO PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.

37. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) the total expenditure on the office of the Architect to the Punjab Government (including all salaries) in 1925-26 and 1929-30, respectively ;

(*b*) the total value of Punjab Government Works which engaged the energies of the Architect's office in 1925-26 and 1929-30, respectively ;

(*c*) whether the Architect to the Punjab Government is allowed private practice, and if so, whether he is allowed to make use of his office establishment for private practice as well ;

(*d*) what is the total amount of fees earned by the Government Architect by his private practice in 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28 and 1928-29, respectively ;

(*e*) what is the proportion of his private fee which the Architect should pay to Government and what are the actual amounts which he paid to Government in each of the years specified in (*d*) ;

(*f*) what amounts, if any, were paid by the Architect to the members of the establishment of his office for the use of their services in the interests of his private practice ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) The total expenditure on the office of the Architect is as follows :—

				Rs.
1925-26 ..	..	..	..	70,780
1929-30	..	..	..	82,772
(*b*) 1925-26 ..	..	..	..	10,75,700
1929-30 ..	..	..	..	17,99,000

These figures do not include such work as advice, drawing and sketches supplied on sundry items such as buildings at Sheikhupura, Pakpattan and Narang, surveys and technical works in connection with Committees such as the Fort Lands Committee, Minto Park Committee, Lahore Improvement Committee, &c., nor the administration of the Architectural Division in 1929-30.

(*c*) Yes, under the terms of his agreement with the Secretary of State for India.

Yes.

				Rs.
(*d*) 1925-26 ..	..	..	..	1,822
1926-27 ..	..	..	..	1,730 (Offg. S.A.)
1927-28 ..	..	..	..	300
1928-29	..	..	..	*Nil.*

(*e*) This has varied from nothing in 1914 to ⅓rd of the fee in 1931 if he uses Government establishment.

				Rs.
1925-26 ..	..	..	..	*Nil.*
1926-27	..	..	..	*Nil.*
1927-28 ..	..	..	..	*Nil.*
1928-29 ..	..	..	..	*Nil.*

(*f*) The Architect paid nothing to his establishment in the years 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29 as he did not make use of their services.

The Architect at the request of Government during 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29, also prepared designs for the Government of India for which a total fee of Rs. 60,510 was received by Government. Of this sum the Government Architect received Rs. 7,965 and his establishment Rs. 3,982.

OFFICERS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

38. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Chief Secretary kindly state the chain of officers from the highest to the lowest—

(*a*) in the Revenue Department ;
(*b*) in the Veterinary Department ;
(*c*) in the Agricultural Department ;
(*d*) in the Co-operative Department ;
(*e*) in both branches of the Public Works Department ;
(*f*) in the Education Department ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The information asked for is as follows :—

(*a*) *Revenue Department—*

(1) Financial Commissioners.
(2) Commissioners of Divisions.

(3) Deputy Commissioners and Colonization Officers—Director of Lands Records—Settlement Officers.
(4) Assistant Commissioners—Assistant Colonization Officers—Revenue Assistants and Sub-Divisional Officers.
(5) Tahsildars.
(6) Naib-Tahsildars.

(*b*) *Veterinary Department.*—

DIRECTOR.

- Circle Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents or Inspectors.*
  - Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, and Veterinary Assistants.
- Principal Punjab Veterinary College.
  - Professors and Assistant Professors.
    - Clinical Assistants and Laboratory Assistants.
- Live Stock Officer.
  - Deputy Superintendent, Live Stock Section.
- Research Officer.
- Superintendent, Government Cattle Farm.
  - Assistant Superintendents.
    - Deputy Superintendents.
      - Farm overseers and Veterinary Assistants.

*These posts are being gradually eliminated.

(*c*) *Agricultural Department*—

DIRECTOR.

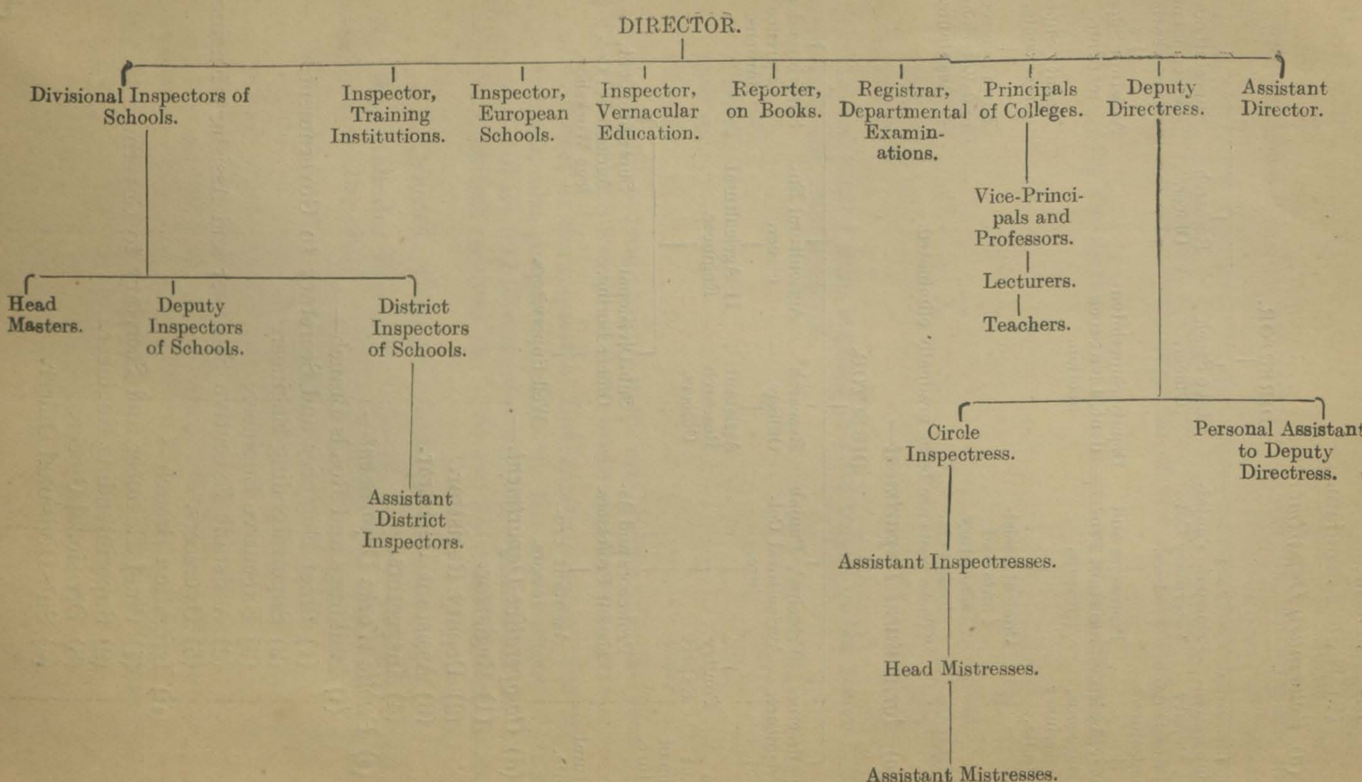
- Deputy Directors of Agriculture.
  - Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture.
    - Agricultural Assistants.
  - Poultry Expert
- Principal, Punjab Agricultural College.
  - Professors and Assistant Professors.
    - Assistant Professors.
- Research Officers.
  - Assistant Research Officers.
- Agricultural Engineer.
  - II Agricultural Engineer.
    - Sub-Divisional Officer Boring.
      - Well Supervisors.
    - Superintendent, Agricultural College Workshop.
- Superintendent, Lawrence Gardens.

(*d*) *Co-operative Department.*—
(1) Registrar.
(2) Deputy Registrar.
(3) Assistant Registrar.
(4) Inspectors.

(*e*) *Public Works Department*—
(*i*) Buildings and Roads Branch—
(1) Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government.
(2) Superintending Engineer.
(3) Executive Engineer.
(4) Assistant Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineer.
(5) Overseers.
(*ii*) Irrigation Branch—
(1) Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government.
(2) Superintending Engineer.
(3) Divisional Officer.
(4) Sub-Divisional Officer.

[Mr. D. J. Boyd.]

(f) Educational Department—



MAJOR WORKS, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

39. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly lay on the table of the House a statement showing—

(*a*) the number and nature of Major Works in any one circle (to be selected by the Honourable Minister himself) the construction of which was started during the present financial year ;

(*b*) the total estimate of cost to be incurred on the works referred to in (*a*) ;

(*c*) the exact dates on which the estimates in respect of the works referred to in (*a*) were prepared ;

(*d*) the exact dates on which the estimates referred to in (*c*) received final administrative approval ;

(*e*) whether in any individual case the estimate of expenditure which was administratively approved differed from the original estimate, and if so, to what extent ;

(*f*) which of the works were made over to contractors for execution and which were undertaken departmentally ;

(*g*) whether tenders were invited for works the execution of which was made over to contractors ;

(*h*) whether the tenders actually accepted were, in any individual case and if so in which, for amounts less than the estimated cost and what was the difference ;

(*j*) which of these works, whether executed departmentally or through contractors, have been completed and what is the actual cost of completion in each case ;

(*k*) whether in respect of uncompleted works the approximate cost incurred on the portion executed bears the same proportion to the whole amount intended to be spent on the work as the portion executed bears to the whole work ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : A statement giving the required information is placed on the table—

[Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

STATEMENT REGARDING MAJOR WORKS

THIRD CIRCLE, PUNJAB.

Serial No.	(a) Name of Major Works sanctioned and started during 1930-31.	(b) Estimated amount (Technically sanctioned).	(c) Exact date on which the estimate was prepared.	(d) Number and date of authority according administrative approval.	(e) Whether in any individual case the estimate of expenditure which was administratively approved differed from the original estimate and if so to what extent.
	H—Jails and Convict Settlements.				
1	Constructing sub-walls between cells and barrack in connection with New Jail, Kasur.	Rs. 10,170 ..	3rd September 1929.	29th May 1930 ..	..
	K—Education (Indian).				
2	Alteration to the old Normal School building in the fort to adopt it for the purpose of a boarding house for the Government High School, Sialkot.	Rs. 12,158 O. W.= Rs. 11,940, Repairs = Rs. 218.	14th September 1927.	Administratively approved for Rs. 12,325 in Ministry of Education No. 735-G.S., dated 12th September 1928.	Saving Rs. 167
	O—Agriculture.				
3	Constructing a residence for Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture, Gujranwala.	Rs. 10,499 ..	22nd May 1928	Administratively approved for Rs. 10,000. Secretary Development No. 5585-D. / 5-11-26	Excess Rs. 499
4	Acquisition of land for Agricultural Farm, Attari.	Sanctioned on 18th October 1930 for Rs. 56,313.	14th July 1930.	Senior Secretary to Financial Commissioners No. 2712-D., dated 31st July 1930, for Rs. 56,313.	..
	P—Industries.				
5	Special School for teaching Metal Works, Sialkot.	Sanctioned on 5th February 1930 for Rs. 73,570, Buildings = Rs. 52,570, Land = Rs. 21,000	24th April 1928.	Financial Commissioners' letter No. 1601-D., dated 29th March 1927 for Rs. 50,185 building. Revenue Secretary No. 749-S.-Rev., dated 5th June 1928 for Rs. 21,000 land.	Excess on building Rs. 2,385.

STARTED DURING 1930-31.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

(f) Whether the work was made over to the contractor for execution or was undertaken departmentally.	(g) Whether the tenders were invited for work made over to contractor for execution.	(h) Whether the tender actually accepted was in any individual case and if so in which, for amount less than the estimated cost and what was the difference.	(j) Whether the work either executed by contractor or departmentally has been completed and what is the actual cost of completion.	(k) Whether in respect of uncompleted works the approximate cost incurred on the portion executed bears the same proportion to the whole amount intended to be spent on the work as the portion executed bears to the work.	REMARKS.
Through contractor.	No. The work was urgent and was started in anticipation of sanction. It was given out to the contractor who was constructing the New Jail buildings.	5 per cent. below.	Rs. 10,076 ..	Completed.	
Ditto	Yes ..	10 per cent. below.	In progress ..	Yes.	
Ditto	Yes ..	10 per cent. below.	Completed, accounts not closed.	Yes.	
The land was acquired through the Agricultural Department.	..	..	Not completed	Yes ..	Rs. 52,748 paid by the Civil Department on account of compensation and adjusted in the accounts for December 1930. Debit for the balance is awaited through the Accountant-General, Punjab.
Through contractor.	Yes ..	10 per cent. below.	In progress ..	Yes.	

[Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

STATEMENT REGARDING MAJOR WORKS

THIRD CIRCLE, PUNJAB,

Serial No.	(a) Name of Major Works sanctioned and started during 1930-31	(b) Estimated amount (Technically sanctioned)	(c) Exact date on which the estimate was prepared.	(d) Number and date of authority according administrative approval.	(e) Whether in any individual case the estimate of expenditure which was administratively approved differed from the original estimate and if so to what extent.
	Q—Civil Works.				
6	Chauburji Gardens, Lahore, (a) Constructing staff quarters for Sanitary and Electric Services.	Rs. 14,545,— *vide* Superintending Engineer, III Circle, Unofficial No. 769, dated 16th October 1930 and Secretary, Public Works Department, No. 106-14-2558-W., dated 22nd October 1930.	11th July 1930	Administratively approved for Rs. 16,000,—*vide* Secretary, Public Works Department No. 106-14-751-W.S., dated 18th July 1930.	Rs.—1,455 saving.
	(b) Constructing a market for Indian Clerks, quarters, Lahore.	Rs. 34,757 ..	1st October 1929.	Rs. 20,000 provided in main scheme administratively approved for Rs. 20,16,693 in Punjab Government No. 106-14—1328-W. S., dated 28th July 1927.	Excess Rs. 14,757
7	Constructing a Bungalow Type III-A (Permanent), on site 45 of the Gazetted Officers' Residences Estate, Lahore.	Building Rs. 28,224 Sanitary and Electric Services excluded.	20th May 1930.	Administratively approved in Secretary, Public Works Department, Punjab, No. 238-12-4233-W., dated 19th December 1929 for Building, Rs. 28,294, Electric Rs. 1,600, Sanitary Rs. 1,500—Rs. 31,394.	Rs. — 70 saving
	T—Communications.				
8	Improving and widening Jullundur-Hoshiarpur-Dharamsala Road No. 18, Section Ranital to Kangra.	Sanctioned on 17th December 1930 for Rs. 1,44,726.	23rd August 1930.	Approved in Ministry of Agriculture No. 121-14—3351-W., dated 17th December 1930 for Rs. 1,44,726.	..
9	Amritsar-Sialkot Road (Arterial No. 34) Constructing Section between Ramdass and Basantar.	Sanctioned on 4th November 1930, for Rs. 3,70,600.	21st November 1928.	Administratively approved for Rs. 3,73,300 in Secretary, Public Works Department, No. 64-W-27—1348-W. S., dated 26th August 1929.	Rs.—2,700 saving

STARTED DURING 1930-31—CONTINUED.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

(f) Whether the work was made over to the contractor for execution or was undertaken departmentally.	(g) Whether the tenders were invited for work made over to contractor for execution.	(h) Whether the tender actually accepted was in any individual case and if so in which, for amount less than the estimated cost and what was the difference.	(i) Whether the work either executed by contractor or departmentally has been completed and what is the actual cost of completion.	(k) Whether in respect of uncompleted works the approximate cost incurred on the portion executed bears the same proportion to the whole amount intended to be spent on the work as the portion executed bears to the work.	REMARKS.
Through contractor.	Yes ..	13 per cent. below.	In progress ..	Yes judging from liabilities.	The entire cost of item 6 (a) and Rs. 14,757 in the case of item 6 (b) will be charged against the saving on the main scheme for Chauburji Gardens Estate, Lahore.
Ditto	Yes ..	18 per cent. below.	Ditto		
Ditto ..	Yes ..	At estimated rates.	Completed, 1st February 1931 but accounts not closed.	Yes.	
Mainly being executed by departmental agency, some petty items are being given to contractor.	As the cost of work to be done through the agency of Contractor is petty tenders have not been called for.	..	..	Yes.	
Through contractor.	Yes ..	Earthwork at Rs. 17-8-0 and Rs. 18 per cent. below bridges and culverts at Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per cent. below.	In progress ..	The work portion is small. The main portion of allotment is for land acquisition.	

[Hon. Sardar Sir JoSindra Singh.]

STATEMENT REGARDING MAJOR WORKS

THIRD CIRCLE, PUNJAB,

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Serial No.	Name of Major Works sanctioned and started during 1930-31.	Estimated amount (Technically sanctioned).	Exact date on which the estimate was prepared.	Number and date of authority according administrative approval.	Whether in any individual case the estimate of expenditure which was administratively approved differed from the original estimate and if so to what extent.
	Contribution Works.				
10	Civil Hospital, Gujranwala, Constructing Main Block.	Sanctioned on 28th August 1930 for Rs. 77,212, W. O. = Rs. 64,884, D. C. = Rs. 12,328.	17th July 1930	..	..
11	Metalling a diversion of the Arterial Road from Lahore to Ferozepore for passing the road over the new Lulliani Brigde.	Rs. 10,532 ..	This was prepared by the Canal Department on 12th March 1930.	Approved on 28th March 1930.	Not known as this relates to the Irrigation Branch on whose behalf the work is being executed.

STARTED DURING 1930-31—CONCLUDED.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—*concluded.*

(f) Whether the work was made over to the contractor for execution or was undertaken departmentally.	(g) Whether the tenders were invited for work made over to contractor for execution.	(h) Whether the tender actually accepted was in any individual case and if so in which, for amount less than the estimated cost and what was the difference.	(j) Whether the work either executed by contractor or departmentally has been completed and what is the actual cost of completion.	(k) Whether in respect of uncompleted works the approximate cost incurred on the portion executed bears the same proportion to the whole amount intended to be spent on the work as the portion executed bears to the work.	REMARKS.
Through contractor.	Yes ..	10 per cent. below.	In progress ..	Yes.	
Ditto	Yes ..	12-8-0 per cent below.	Ditto	In progress. No payment yet made.	The entire expenditure on this work *plus* 19 per cent. departmental charges will be debited by book transfer to the Irrigation Branch.

KESHDHARI SIKH AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

40. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon : Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(a) whether any Keshdhari Sikh is a Deputy Commissioner in the Punjab ;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, whether Government is considering the appointment of a Keshdhari Sikh as Deputy Commissioner ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

SIKHS AMONG DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS.

41. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the total number of Deputy Superintendents of Jails and how many of them are Sikhs ;

(b) if there is no Sikh, when Government proposes to appoint some ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Of the 23 posts of Deputy Superintendent of Jails, one post is held by a Sikh .

(b) Since the senior men in the department are at present non-Sikhs, it would obviously be impossible to supersede them in order to appoint Sikhs. Sikhs will, however, in the course of time be fully represented in this cadre as 24 posts of Assistant Superintendent are now held by them.

SIKHS AMONG JAILORS AND ASSISTANT JAILORS.

42. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Jailors and Assistant Jailors in the Punjab Jail Department ;

(b) how many of them are Muhammadans, Hindus and Sikhs ;

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to raise the number of Sikhs ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) The total number of Jailors or Deputy Superintendents as they are now called is 26 and the total number of Assistant Jailors or Assistant Superintendents as they are now called is 111.

(b) The communal representation is as follows :—

Deputy Superintendents or Jailors.

Muslims	11
Hindus	12
Sikh	1
Others	2
Total ..	26

Assistant Superintendents or Assistant Jailors.

Muslims	35
Hindus	51
Sikhs	24
Others	1
Total ..	111

(*c*) Due consideration is being paid to the claims of Sikh candidates. Since the new system of recruitment was started, 5 Assistant Superintendentships out of 12 directly appointed have gone to Sikhs.

APPRENTICE ENGINEERS IN HYDRO-ELECTRIC BRANCH.

43. **Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total number of apprentice Engineers in the Hydro-Electric Branch of the Punjab, Public Works Department;

(*b*) whether the Government will lay on the table a statement showing in tabular form the names, qualifications, date of appointment, present pay, scale of pay and rate of increment of each of these apprentice Engineers ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Eleven.

(*b*) The required statement has been laid in the table—

APPRENTICE ENGINEERS IN THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC BRANCH.

Serial No.	Name.	Qualifications.	Date of appointment.	Scale of pay.	Rate of increment.	Present pay.	REMARKS.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	Mr. N. C. Gupta ..	B.Sc. (Mechanical Engineering) University of Birmingham.	1-7-1927	150—7—255	7	255	
2	Mr. K. C. Gandhi ..	Holder of Faraday House London, Diploma (1923). Graduate of Institute of Electrical Engineers.	1-11-1927	150—7—255	7	255	
3	Mr. T. N. Idnani ..	B. Sc. (Bombay), B. Sc. Technology (Manchester). Associate Manchester College, Technology.	1-7-1927	150—7—255	7	213	
4	Mr. H. S. Bedi	B. Sc. (Engineering) from the Lewis Institute, Chicago, United States of America.	6-11-1928 A. N.	150—7—255	7	164	
5	Mr. B. N. Channa ..	Graduated from the Central Technological Institute, Bombay. Obtained a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.	1-10-1928	150—7—255	7	164	
6	Mr. Rahmat Ellahi ..	Holder of Diploma of the Maclagan Engineering College, Mughalpura.	1-9-1929	150—7—255	7	157	
7	Mr. Abdul Hamid ..	B. Sc. in Electrical Engineering, Durham University.	1-9-1929	150—7—255	7	157	
8	Mr. H. R. Prasar ..	B. Sc. in Electrical Engineering, United States of America.	1-11-1929	150—7—255	7	157	
9	Mr. D. R. Bedi ..	B. Sc. (Benares Hindu University) ..	1-7-1930	150—7—255	7	150	
10	Mr. S. B. Dillon ..	B. E. from Civil Engineering College, Sheffield University. Passed the City and Guilds of London Institute's Final Examination in Structural Engineering. Holder of Diploma of the Maclagan Engineering College.	1-8-1930	150—7—255	7	150	
11	Mr. M. A. Qureshi ..	Holder of Diploma of the Maclagan Engineering College. Has passed A. M. I. E. E. Examination and is a graduate member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.	11-12-1930	150—7—255	7	150	Officiating *vice* Mr. H. L. Kashyap.

APPRENTICE ENGINEERS IN HYDRO-ELECTRIC BRANCH.

44. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that some of the Hydro-Electric Apprentice Engineers have been working for over three years and are still Apprentice Engineers in the overseer's grade of Rs. 80—7—255 except that they are given a start of Rs. 150 per mensem ;

(*b*) what is the period of apprenticeship in other branches of the Public Works Department and what are the reasons for differential treatment in the case of Apprentice Engineers in the Hydro-Electric Branch ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand. Narang : (*a*) Yes, but the Apprentice Engineers are in the scale of Rs. 150—7—255 and their posts are gazetted.

(*b*) Apprenticeship in the permanent branches is a probationary period qualifying for permanent employment and has no analogy with apprenticeship in a temporary branch in which permanent employment is not provided. Consequently no question of differential treatment arises.

WARABANDI AND SCARCITY OF WATER.

45. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that cultivation of wheat and other *rabi* crops has been this year abnormally less than in previous years owing to great scarcity of canal water due to *warabandi* ;

(*b*) if so what action Government intends to take to alleviate the grievances of the zamindars ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) If the honourable member means that the canal irrigated area under wheat and other *rabi* crops is abnormally low this year, the reply is in the negative.

(*b*) Does not arise.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION *RE* RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE—*concluded.*

Pir Akbar Ali [Ferozepore, (Muhammdan,) Rural] (*Urdu*) : Sir, yesterday when the Council adjourned I was saying that in view of the peculiar circumstances now prevailing in the province reasonable reduction should be made in the provincial expenditure. I believe that can be done very easily. I also stated yesterday that the Public Works Department was squandering the public money mercilessly. Where a work can be done for one rupee this department would spend fourteen rupees, and say that it was done in a better way. Similarly reduction can also be made in the expenditure of the

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

Canal Department. Our time, particularly to-day, is very precious and therefore I would not discuss this matter at length, but would confine my remarks to one or two departments. Take the case of the Public Health Department. Highly paid officers whom we call Health Officers are appointed to discharge the duties which a Sanitary Inspector can satisfactorily perform. The Health Officer goes round and calls for the zaildars and lambardars and tells them that if they do not do this or that they will be reported against. This is a duty which a Sanitary Inspector on Rs. 60 a month can also do. (*Interruption*). Yes, you are living in palaces and you cannot be expected to know the hard lot of those who live in huts. Now I would like to say a few words about the judiciary of the province. I am coming from Ferozepore and I do not know about other districts, but so far as my district is concerned, I can say with confidence that all magistrates and Sub-Judges with the exception of the District Magistrate, Assistant District Magistrate, Revenue Assistant and the Senior Sub-Judge, finish their work before 12 o'clock every day. The Government can well ascertain these facts from the local authorities. Similar state of affairs might be obtaining in other departments as well but I, for one, claim no knowledge about them. Anyhow reduction can be made in the expenditure of various Government departments, and without that we cannot do. Our case is similar to that of the proverbial person, who when told that a camel was being sold cheap for a small sum of money, remarked that the price was very high, but when on another occasion he was informed that a camel was being sold for a still higher price, he remarked that it was very cheap simply because he could afford to pay that amount. We, the zamindars, are now in the grip of evil times and hardly able to keep our soul and body together. It can very easily be said that the zamindars are themselves to blame for their present lot. Their troubles are due to themselves. It has also been suggested that the zamindar should curtail his expenses. Just imagine when one acre of land yields at the most 7 or 8 maunds of wheat which according to the present market rates is worth 14 or 15 rupees, how can you expect the zamindar to meet the Government demands, expenses of cultivation and his private expenses from this small sum? Not only the price of wheat has gone down but there is a general fall in prices of all agricultural produce. As a matter of fact the responsibility for this fall in prices does not lie at the doors of Government. Some people think that this abnormal fall in prices is due to the exchange rates. In reply to this I would submit that these abnormal conditions are not only found in this country but are to be seen all over the world. It may also be said that Government has unnecessarily increased its expenditure. This is wrong. The Government had to incur extra expenditure on account of the present political movement. They had to employ additional police and appoint special tribunals. They had also to incur heavy expenditure on account of the political prisoners. Another point in favour of the zamindar is that he has not taken any interest in the political movement. Therefore, it is the foremost duty of Government to relieve him of his present distress. For that purpose it is essential that my proposal should be adopted. In view of all these facts it will not be too much to hope that the Government will be kind enough to appoint the proposed committee which would suggest ways and means of effecting reduction in the provincial expenditure.

Mr. President :

" This Council recommends to the Government to appoint a retrenchment committee with a majority of elected members of the Punjab Council for making immediate suggestions for curtailing the provincial expenditure with a view to bringing it to the level of the present poor financial condition of the province."

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I think the mover of this resolution is to be congratulated on bringing this resolution before the House. I am sure if such a committee, as is recommended, is appointed, it will be of every great value to the administration. This is not a new thing that has been asked for by this House. As you are aware, it is the general practice all over the world that a committee of Ways and Means is appointed practically every year. But as the conditions in our province this year are abnormal, therefore, the appointment of this committee is ever so much essential and necessary. I can assure the Government that if such a committee is appointed, it will be of very great value and of great assistance. Members will suggest such means to economise and to retrench expenditure that may never occur to the Government otherwise. By way of illustration, I will just like to mention one or two facts that came to my notice only yesterday.

As the honourable members of this House know, in answer to question No. 33[1] of Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, the Honourable the Revenue Member gave an answer as regards the working of the Canal Department, where it was shown that while in the last 10 years the income of the department had increased by one crore and a few odd lakhs of rupees, the expenditure also increased by about 62 lakhs of rupees. Practically more than half the income that was earned in the last 10 years, was spent. That is a matter which, I think, should thoroughly be gone into. After all, by spending 62 lakhs of rupees they were to get practically double the amount of that expenditure. It is not a very happy state of affairs. In the same way, I will refer to the answer to question No. 46[2] where the Minister for Agriculture stated that the maintenance expenditure of metalled road is about Rs. 1,563 per mile, while of unmetalled road it is about Rs. 283. This again seems to be a very excessive expenditure. I know from my own personal experience that in the Lahore District Board whatever small portion of roads we maintain, I can say with confidence that those parts of the roads are not in any way inferior to what is being kept by the Public Works Department. On these roads we are spending something about Rs. 800 or even less per mile on the maintenance of *pucca* roads, while on the *kuchcha* roads we are spending not even Rs. 100 per mile. If we can afford to spend Rs. 100 more on such roads we can keep them in a much better condition.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Where does the honourable member get his metal from ? Does he use stone metal ? Are the roads tarred ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : We use stone metal and some of the roads are tarred. Anyhow the expenditure that is being incurred by the Public Works Department is practically double that of the amount that we are spending, sometimes even more.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Comparison is only possible if the roads are of the same width and same material and of the same standard.

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[1] Page 69 *ante*.
[2] Page 74 *ante*.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : The district board roads also differ in many places. In some places they have got more width than in other parts. But in answering that question, I suppose, the Honourable Minister has taken the average of the whole lot. I might just as well mention one or two other points for the consideration of this committee, if it is appointed. The working of the co-operative societies is again a very intricate sort of problem, and I should like this committee to go into this thoroughly. I am sure, the members who know a little bit of the working of these co-operative societies will be able to help them a lot. I really cannot understand why while the societies charge 12 per cent., and more on loans, the overhead charges are met by the Government. Why cannot overhead charges be paid by the co-operative societies themselves ? A great deal of expenditure is incurred by Government which, as a matter of fact, should go to the co-operative societies who charge more than 12 per cent. interest on loans.

Then, again I may just refer—I am not going into details of the whole thing, I am referring to these questions for the help of this committee and also to advise the Government that if this Committee is appointed, I am sure, good results would accrue—to Government buildings and their rents. It has come to my notice that some elaborate buildings have been put up, while the rent charged for them are below the average rates that are prevailing in the same locality.

Then again take the grants-in-aid question. I suppose the Minister in charge of Education will be very much interested in it. I am sure that if the whole question were gone into properly, there can be a lot of saving in these grants-in-aid to different institutions.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I should welcome a concrete suggestion.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : If this committee is appointed you will get concrete proposals.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Have you none to make ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I am not going into details at the present time. I was going through the Budget of this year last time and although I did not go into the whole matter thoroughly, still taking the whole as it was I came to the conclusion that if special effort was made at least ten per cent. of the expenditure should come down easily. Mind you, I am not for one moment in favour of interfering in any way with the efficiency of the departments. I would very much like the efficiency of the departments kept up as it is, but inspite of that I am sure if efforts are made ten per cent. of the expenditure can be cut down and that saving can be utilized in developing our resources and giving relief to the departments in need of it. I do not want at this stage to go into the very details of the different departments, but I would welcome this resolution and I would appeal to the House that it should welcome this resolution of the honourable mover and give its whole-hearted support to it.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I rise to give my whole-hearted support to the resolution moved by my honourable friend from Ferozepore. It is an admitted fact that at this time the whole

world is passing through a wave of very acute trade depression. There is a slump in prices which many of us even those of my friends who are older than myself have never seen in their lives. There are many factors which have combined and which have been operating for the last few years to bring about this sad state of affairs. In some cases this unprecedented slump is due to over production, but in other commodities it is certainly due to under consumption. It may be said that in wheat and other cereals where Russia and other countries have begun to grow large quantities, there is a good deal of over production and that might continue for a long time. But in the case of cotton, the crop this year is not larger than it was in 1926-27, but still the prices are half of what they were in 1926-27. The reason is that for many causes the losses have gone on accumulating till at the close of 1929 the Wall Street Crash in the United States of America have brought matters to a crisis and have brought such an acute depression in trade and industry as the world has never seen before. Every country in the world is realising the gravity of the situation and we hear all round a cry for retrenchment for we know that the taxing capacity of the people has been reduced and they cannot support any further taxation. There is an opinion which has been shared not by ordinary people but by businessmen who can say with some knowledge and authority that this depression is likely to last for a period of four to five years, some say it might last longer. This province ought to look ahead and try to make its finances sound. Sir, in an agricultural country where the taxable capacity of the people is very low, this trade depression and the fall in prices have hit the people very hard. In rich countries people can sustain the stress of this depression, but in a poor province and in an agricultural province where the people have nothing else to fall back upon, where there is no industry, where, I may say the Government by following a fatal policy of not encouraging the development of industry have made the agricultural population depend upon agriculture alone, the decline in prices leads to disastrous results. It is necessary, therefore, that this Government, the Government of this agricultural country should look ahead now and try to curtail expenditure wherever it is necessary. My Honourable friend, the Minister for Local Self-Government, yesterday said that the financial condition of the province was quite sound, because, his argument was, that the province was able to borrow money in foreign markets and in the Indian markets. He, however, admitted that the rate of interest on such loans was higher than that at which the Government borrowed a few years back. I would admit that. But does the financial condition of a country or an individual depend solely on credit? I surely admit that the province has not become so bankrupt as not to be able to borrow money, but if the existing bad trading conditions continue, as they are likely to continue for some time and if you do not curtail your expenditure or increase your revenues, you will surely be on the road to bankruptcy. It is no argument, that because the credit of the province has not become so low as not to enable it to borrow money in foreign markets it should not try to curtail expenditure wherever it is found necessary. We hear all round a cry for curtailment of expenditure. In every country retrenchment is being attempted. We read in papers that a ten per cent. reduction is made here and there in the salaries and committees are appointed for going into the details of the matter and bringing about a balanced budget. In this province on a previous occasion when the Government was faced with such a difficulty, though the

[Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh.]

people's taxable capacity was not so low as it is now, the Government did appoint a retrenchment committee, but unfortunately all its recommendations were not carried out. But at present, the condition is far worse than it was at that time because as we see now the existing deplorable state of affairs is likely to last for some time and what is worse you cannot tax the people now. This Council very willingly imposed new taxes at that time, but now if you pass any measure by which you might impose taxation on the people, they will not tolerate it. There is no capacity left in them to bear any further taxation. As a matter of fact, the tax-payer needs immediate relief. There is cry raised by the zamindars and a right cry too that they cannot meet the Government charges, they cannot even make both ends meet. Government says, that if we remit taxation how can we balance the budget? The only other remedy is to reduce expenditure. There is no other way out of the difficulty. Either increase taxation or reduce expenditure and this resolution only suggests that you ought to appoint a committee which might go into the various items with a view to exploring avenues of curtailing expenditure. The committee can be expected to be reasonable in its recommendations. It will only curtail expenditure where it is absolutely necessary in the interests of the province and with due regard to efficiency. I need not go into the details because I do not want to take upon myself the business of the committee. This is not the proper time nor the occasion to point out various items of reduction, but there is certainly a great need for the appointment of such a committee. Never were times so bad. Never were the conditions throughout the world so bad as they are to-day. If there was a necessity for such a committee some time back there is a greater necessity now and the Government would be wise in accepting this very mild resolution. Ordinarily whenever a Government or, I might say, any other body wants to shelve a question they try to appoint a committee, but this resolution has no such object in view. The Government should accept it in its true spirit. The committee should be appointed at once and should be set to work without delay. When it has reported the Government should in right earnest carry out the recommendations of that committee. With these few words I whole heartedly support the resolution (*hear, hear*).

Mr. Din Muhammad [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, with the same emphasis with which I supported the resolution which recommended the constitution of a committee to explore fresh sources of revenue, I lend my support to this resolution which recommends the constitution of a retrenchment committee just to find out what items of expenditure we can safely cut down without impairing efficiency. Unless one is prepared to beg, borrow or steal, these are the only ways in which figures can be balanced, either we must increase our income or we must decrease our expenditure. Now, every one knows that Governments cannot beg and Governments cannot steal, and though Governments can borrow, yet in that case also, there is a point which cannot be overstepped. It is essential therefore that, in view of the financial stringency with which we have been faced during the last three years, we should set our house in order and find out most earnestly and sincerely, observing even the minute details of the items of expenditure, whether it is not possible that we might do away with some of them with a view to introduce an equilibrium in our budget. From some of the interruptions by the two Ministers of

Government, it appears that they are under the impression that the Council would be censuring them if any retrenchment is suggested in their departments. (*The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon :* No, we would welcome suggestions). I wish, however, to assure them that that is not the intention of the Council. Of course the Honourable Ministers would admit that they do not claim infallibility. In fact no head of department can claim infallibility in this matter. Our only object is that all our items of expenditure should be overhauled in some such manner as to ensure efficiency along with curtailment of expenditure. Honourable members are aware that the other day when the Honourable Sir George Rainy presented the Railway Budget in the Assembly, he just quoted some very interesting instances of the manner in which retrenchment could be effected. He informed the House *inter alia* how some years ago an expert was requisitioned from England to find out and report whether all the expenses then incurred in the working of the Telegraph Department were necessary, and after spending a lot of time in considering the question of overhauling the expenditure of the department, one of the suggestions made by that expert was that one letter should not be telegraphed twice. His suggestion aroused ridicule but he at once satisfied his audience by explaining to them that if that one letter was now being telegraphed twenty million times a day, what saving would it bring if that letter was dropped throughout the year. Similarly in other matters he pointed out very minute details which generally do not come under our notice which he said if left out would ensure a substantial saving which could very easily be utilised in some very necessary directions.

Retrenchment no doubt is an unpalatable term but like a bitter pill it has to be swallowed sometimes just to set right the internal organism and to ensure a happier and a longer life for the patient. Governments can not avoid it in times of financial stringency. It is for these reasons that I beg most earnestly to support this resolution, which is in a way complementary to the one that we have passed the other day for appointing a committee to explore fresh sources of income. It would only widen the scope of that committee.

It has been pointed out by the honourable member from Mian Channu that this is being done in all countries. Financial stringency is being felt everywhere and in order to overcome it, we shall have to adopt either this way which is before us, or the only other alternative gone before, *i.e.*, an increase of income. Retrenchment would not necessarily mean the removal or dismissal of all high paid officials of Government nor would it involve the abolition of several departments of Government. It would only mean, that instead of going to Rankens and Phelps you will have to go to the Commercial Buildings for shopping, where the same stuff could be got at a less price and your skin saved from the inclemencies of the weather equally well. With these remarks I lend my support to this resolution.

Mr. Owen Roberts (Nominated, Non-official) : A number of speakers have made references to the depression of prices, but I feel that we must take care not to lose our perspective in this matter. So far as this country is concerned, she is probably better off to-day than any other agricultural country in the world. I give you an instance on which I base this opinion. To-day the sale of Australian wheat is being pressed at Karachi at Rs. 17-8-0 a candy which works out to Rs. 2-3-0 a maund and this price would give

[Mr. Owen Roberts.]
the agriculturist in Lyallpur assuming a railway freight of Annas 10 a return of Rs. 1-9-0 a maund. I leave it to honourable members to make up their mind as to how much the agriculturist in Australia is getting for that wheat. He has got to pay freight to his port. (*An honourable member*: What is the freight from Australia to Karachi ?). I cannot tell you that, but he has got to pay freight from the interior of Australia down to the port ; he has to pay heavy storage charges ; he has to pay the interest and various other charges and in any case there is certainly a great deal more than the difference of ten annas which accrues against the Punjab grower. I say this not because I have no sympathy with the situation as we find it in the Punjab to-day but because I wish to urge on the Council that there are other things besides retrenchment which should be given consideration as remedies in the present situation. We can for example insist that everything that can possibly be done should be done to protect our own growers. We have had in the past few months the assistance of a reduced railway freight to Karachi and I am quite sure that it has led to a considerable quantity of wheat finding its way to Karachi which probably would never have gone there. I saw figures last week amounting to 4,000 tons and it is very many years since 4,000 tons of Punjab wheat has found its way into Karachi during the corresponding period in recent years. Then again the assistance that we have received, thanks to this Government taking up a virtual challenge from the Railway Board in the matter of freights to Calcutta, has also been valuable. It has not perhaps led to wheat finding its way to Calcutta from the Punjab, but what it has done is that it has had the effect of reducing the prices of wheat in Calcutta, thereby stopping foreign imports which is all to the good. I think we are perfectly entitled to do everything that we can in order to see that at any rate our own customers do not pass out of our hands.

I should also like to say a word, because the subject is bound to be given some amount of publicity at some time or other, on the whole principle of Government's assistance to agriculture in these matters. There are two very different schools of thought. The United States, the position of which is very much the same as that of India, has undertaken to protect the surplus of its crop which is approximately proportionate to what the Indian surplus is and to finance it. In Canada the large movement known as the Canadian Wheat Pool has had Government assistance also. The critics of this school largely come from Great Britain itself. There the idea of taxing food is abhorrent to everybody and for very obvious reasons. They do not grow it and naturally they are averse to anything that raises the price of it. But I would ask the Council to give due weight in this matter to another point of view. Suppose the Government of Great Britain had spent as much on the promotion of agriculture as it has given away in doles to industrial workers or compare the figures paid in doles to industrialists with the amount of money spent by the Canadian Government in protecting agriculturists and one begins to appreciate that after all it is very much the same thing. In fact so far as I am concerned, I can see no difference between spending £ 5 millions or 6 millions in helping your agriculturists out of their difficulties and spending the same amount or more annually in encouraging men to do no work on the dole. So that if ever the question does come up seriously of obtaining financial assistance from Government in order to protec

the agriculturists, I think one must give weight to this point of view. We are very far from the position other agricultural countries find themselves in, that is, in having to throw their crops on into the international markets to just get what they can get for them. Our position may not be a very promising one because after all to produce wheat or to produce anything and sell it to one's neighbours is only taking one other's washing, but still in the hard times that we are passing through I think we ought to make due allowance for the comparatively fortunate position which we find ourselves in.

Mian Nurullah [Lyallpur, South (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, the need for retrenchment was never so great as it is to-day. The Honourable the Finance Member remarked yesterday that the province had passed through worse financial times in previous years. Nobody questions that statement. But I might safely inform him that the general public especially the zamindars had never passed through worse times than the present. The Honourable Member was perfectly right in saying that in 1921-22 there was a great deficit in the budget. That was true but I should like to inform him that in those years the zamindars were rolling in plenty and they could well afford to fill the coffers of the Government. The budget then showed no doubt a deficit but at present the budget of every one of us outside Government, those who live on zamindara business is showing a deficit and land revenue is a very big strain on us. I am afraid if this strain continues for any length of time, for one, two or three years for which this depression is anticipated to last, it will produce disastrous results. Here I cannot help referring to one sentence in a public appeal made by Giani Kesar Singh, Kang, General Secretary, Zamindara Sabha, district Lyallpur, issued in the form of a pamphlet to His Excellency, which shows that a revolution is taking place in the ideas of the people about us and what that change would lead us to we cannot imagine. With your permission, I shall read the last sentence of the first paragraph of this appeal.

معاملہ کی ادائیگی کا ہولناک تصور زمیندار کے دل و دماغ پر اسطرح مستولی ہو رہا ہے کہ اسکا خون ادائیگی سے پیشتر ہی خشک ہوچکا ہے اور اگر یہی حالت جاری رہی تو یقیناً زمیندار کی دماغی ترکیب میں ان صدمات کی وجہ سے ایسا انقلاب ہوجائیگا ہر ایک احتمال موجود ہے کہ جس سے ملک کے امن و عافیت۔نظم و نسق میں نا قابل برداشت خلل اندازی واقعہ ہوجانیکا اندیشہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

This is a serious thing. It is borne out by experience. If you go out and enquire from the people they will tell you the same story.

3 P.M.

What is our financial condition? We have a topheavy administration much too costly for our slender resources. We should, if possible, overhaul the whole machinery. The best way of doing it is by appointing a Retrenchment Committee. I do not wish to take up the time of the House by describing the various ways by which retrenchment can be effected in Government expenditure, but I have a few instances which I want to men-

[Mian Nurullah.]

tion to the House as showing the direction in which this can be done. I belong to Lyallpur district. The District Engineer of the place retired last year and another Engineer was appointed in his place. He was sanctioned Rs. 50,000 less than in previous years, but as he was a zamindar of the *ilaqa* and took a personal interest in the whole affair he further saved a sum of Rs. 60,000 out of a total budget sanction of Rs. 2,20,000 only. Let me mention another instance. By a mere change in the unloading station from Lyallpur to the next, he effected a saving of Rs. 8,000 in the carriage of metal alone for repairing a road 20 miles long. It is a small item indeed, but it never occurred to anybody. It shows what great scope there is. If we have some people to go into these things they will be able to show to us that there is a large scope for retrenchment and economy in the Public Works Department, the Irrigation and various other departments. I have always held the view that the Irrigation Department is too costly a department for us. The working expenses of the department are more than 50 per cent. of what it yields us. Yet we are told that water is a business commodity and we may or may not buy it. Where then are we to go? Do the Government run the department on business lines? Do they take notice of public opinion and effect retrenchment in unnecessary expenditure? We have the water forced on us and we cannot but buy it at their price. We cannot help it that is our condition.

I do not want to anticipate the retrenchment committee in their recommendations, but I should like to suggest a few places where retrenchment can profitably be effected. I have in mind a few posts and departments where retrenchment can be easily carried out. They are the Sub-Divisional Officers' *munshis* in the Irrigation Department, Superintending Engineers, and Deputy Collectors of the Irrigation Department, Jail Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents created recently, Commissioners who are post offices in the General Administration Department, the Extra Additional Directors of Agriculture, Additional Sub-Inspectors of Police, the poultry farms, most of the agriculture specialists and the Fisheries Department. I have indicated only a few directions in which retrenchment can be effected, and it is for the committee to be appointed to explore all avenues of retrenchment of wasteful and unnecessary expenditure. For example, one of the ways will be to stop further recruitment to the services, then to reduce the allowances of the present incumbents and then also to reduce the salaries in general.

I am very glad to notice that members on all sides of the House have been singing a chorus of retrenchment. One other thing I might suggest to the House which may sound strange, but nevertheless will be a very valuable thing. We have not in this House any party based on political principles; if a new party is formed which will have as its guiding motto retrenchment in Government expenditure, that will be doing a great service to our province. With these words I beg to support the motion for the appointment of a retrenchment committee.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East Rohtak, (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, a resolution for the reduction of Government expenditure was under discussion in this House yesterday. There were two speeches made by Government members which seemed to me rather strange. The Honourable the Finance Member said that Government had not been

reduced to such straits as to make it necessary for them to go round hat in hand for contributions. The Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government said that the finances of the province were entirely sound. Both these speeches were very amusing indeed. I was wondering whether this House was being addressed by men from the clouds or by men standing on the floor of the House with a full knowledge of the realities of the situation. In fact if these speeches give a real indication of their state of mind, I am sure they will not effect any economy in the administration of the various departments entrusted to them. If their speeches are a correct index of their feeling in the matter, I must say they are entertaining a false sense of security. I only hope that their sense of security was feigned and not false.

Let me show clearly what the present financial position of the province is.

Mr. President : The honourable member should not refer to a previous debate of the current session on a question not now before the House.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I am not replying to them. I am only making a speech to the resolution under discussion now. We are asking for a Retrenchment Committee because we believe that the financial position of the province is unsound. It is, therefore, very essential that we should show why we believe that the financial position is unsound, so unsound that the immediate appointment of a retrenchment committee is absolutely essential. However, I have not very much to say by way of reply to certain observations that were made yesterday, but in order to make it clear that the financial position of the province is unsound I wish to draw the attention of the House to a few points. I shall be as brief as I can.

Now, the Government of India have had to offer higher terms for their loans this year than in previous years. That shows that the credit of the Government of India is not so high as it was in previous years. I do not think anybody can reasonably claim that the credit of the Punjab Government is in any way higher than the credit of the Government of India. Then there is another thing which indicates the financial weakness of the province and that is that a number of works which had received administrative and technical approval years ago have been held back. That is not an indication that the finances of the province are in a flourishing condition. Then again, recruitment to various departments has been virtually stopped. Rates of travelling allowances have been reduced. The scale of salaries for new entrants has been lowered. Those who held temporary posts in the various departments of Government but had not been confirmed have been served with a notice that their services would no longer be required. Instructions have also been issued to heads of departments that they should curtail expenditure in their departments by a certain percentage. Expansion has practically been stopped. The schedule of new expenditure goes to show that development and expansion have received a definite check.

Mr. F. H. Puckle : Has the honourable member seen the schedule of new expenditure ?

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Yes, I have seen it. Even if I had not seen it, it is a notorious fact that the pace of expansion has been greatly reduced.

Mr. F. H. Puckle : It is not correct.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : If it is not correct you may correct me when you come to make your speech. Do not all these things go to show clearly that the financial position of the province is not sound ? I am sure Government realises clearly enough that it is not sound. Under the circumstances it is only just and proper that the representatives of the people should bring forward a motion asking for the appointment of a retrenchment committee.

Now, I will draw the attention of the House to a few facts which will convince them that unless something is done to retrench expenditure and secure as much economy in the administration of Government as possible the province would be heading for financial ruin. Here are a few figures of expenditure that were given by the Honourable the Finance Member in answer to some of my questions. Travelling allowances in the Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch) amounted to Rs. 10,11,839 in 1920-21 and rose to Rs. 16,94,496 in 1928-29, an increase of over 67 per cent. The working expenses of canals amounted to Rs. 1,54,62,920 in 1920-21 and rose to Rs. 2,15,91,110 in 1928-29. Receipts, both direct and indirect, amounted to Rs. 4,84,32,601 in 1920-21 and rose to Rs. 6,13,74,369 in 1928-29. The area irrigated by canals rose from 95,68,867 acres in 1920-21 to 1,15,32,539 acres in 1928-29. The above figures show that while during these eight years the working expenses have increased by about 44 per cent. the area irrigated has increased only by 20 per cent. and income has increased only by 26·7 per cent. The proportion of working expenses to receipts was less than 32 per cent. in 1920-21 and rose to over 35 per cent. in 1928-29. And yet Government Members have the hardihood to say that the financial position of the province is entirely sound and that it does not stand in need of the attention of a retrenchment committee.

Now take another department—General Administration. The expenditure on salaries alone in the General Administration Department was in 1920-21 Rs. 54,95,004. In 1929-30 the expenditure under this head rose to Rs. 76,41,721. The total increase on salaries alone thus amounts to Rs. 21,46,717, an increase of 39·6 per cent.

Now having regard to the figures that I have quoted it appears perfectly plain that the financial condition of the province requires to be scrutinised very carefully, that there is endless scope for retrenchment and this retrenchment will never come unless the pointed attention of the public, of the press and of the Government is drawn to it by the report of a strong committee which devotes its time and energy for a certain number of days or weeks to this function alone.

Now I will also draw the attention of this House and the Government Members to certain other factors in the administration which make for lavish expenditure. Let us just look at the High Court. The average number of working days in a year in the High Court is 197, that is just 6½ months.

Mr. D. J. Boyd : I am afraid the honourable member is not right. The number of working days in the High Court is 242. That is the figure given by the High Court itself.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Then the number of working days seems to have increased since I put my question last. In answer to my question in 1928 the average number of working days in the year was given as 197. I am glad to hear that that number has now risen to 242.

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The difference is probably due to the fact that the Vacation Judges sit throughout the vacation.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Whatever the reason, my contention is that 197 working days in a year is not a fair return for the money that is spent on the High Court.

Let us take the position of Government colleges. There also the average number of working days in a year is 197 and what is worse still is the fact that professors and lecturers and their assistants do not work for more than a few hours a week. (*A voice* : question). I am perfectly right. I know that with the exception of oriental teachers the general body of professors and lecturers have very light work to do indeed. I am absolutely sure that the average number of working hours per head in the case of professors and lecturers does not exceed two or three hours a day. Is there any reason why while people in the Secretariat can work six, seven or eight hours a day, professors and assistant professors and lecturers should not be able to put in similar amount of work every day? (*A voice* : They work six hours a day). They do not, even if they worked four hours a day that would be something like satisfactory. My information will be found to be perfectly correct, for it is derived either from those who themselves work in these colleges or are closely associated with professors and assistant professors.

Then I also desire to draw the attention of this House to the unnecessary multiplication of departments. There are certain departments which need not exist at all and if there is any need for their continued existence they had better be attached to some other department. Take the instance of the Fisheries Department. There is absolutely no justification for its separate existence. Then there are the Criminal Tribes Department, Reclamation Department, Convict Settlements Department. All these departments could very well be looked after by the same set of officers.

Then the engineers. The service of engineers is a subject which would baffle almost anybody. We cannot understand why there should be so many engineers and why there should be so many classes of engineers. There are the irrigation engineers, a separate unit altogether. Then there are engineers for Buildings and Roads Branch. Then there are sanitary engineers. Then there are agricultural engineers. There are drainage engineers, there are architects and there are boring engineers. Why should there be so many classes? (*A voice* : They are a great bore), (*laughter*). There was time when one engineer was regarded as quite sufficient for two or three districts. Now each district has probably half a dozen—one man for drainage, another for buildings and roads, another for something else and a fourth for something else. All this multiplication means unnecessary expense.

[R. B. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

Then I would also like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that in the case of certain classes of officers the amount of work attached to their offices has been very much curtailed. Take the instance of civil surgeons. They used to be members of municipalities, they used to be members of district boards, they used to be superintendents of jails, they used to be public health officers not only for the town but of the district as a whole. They have been relieved of all these duties now and yet we have one civil surgeon for each district still. A civil surgeon has not sufficient work to do in a district and I think one civil surgeon will be quite sufficient to take charge of two districts.

Then I think there is another multiplication of jobs or departments represented by the Medical Department and the Public Health Department. Colonel Forster was here Director of Public Health. He was appointed Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in Burma. If the same gentleman was sufficiently competent to take charge of the Public Health Department here and later on of the Department of Civil Hospitals in another province, is there any reason why the same officer should not be able to look after both the Medical Department and the Public Health Department in the same province? Why should there be separate departments under two separate officers with separate establishments? (*A voice*: One is preventive and the other is curative). You can find any number of excuses for these jobs; there is no doubt about that.

Then the House will be surprised to hear that every department—Agriculture, Co-operation, Veterinary and scores of other departments—have their own separate staff of propagandists. (*A voice*: question). Well, there was a time when each department came up for a separate cinema lorry for itself, and said that they would not be content unless they were supplied with a cinema lorry separately. (*A voice*: We have improved since then.) (*Another voice*: No Punch and Judy shows now).

Then there is another matter which ought to receive the serious attention of the retrenchment committee if one is appointed. Look at the number of links in the chain of officers in various departments. Let us take the Veterinary Department. At the lowest rung stands the Veterinary Assistant. Over him you have the Inspector—

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: Did the honourable member see the answer I gave to his question yesterday? I said that where there was a Deputy Superintendent, there was no Inspector. There was either the one or the other, not both the officers as suspected by the honourable member.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: You have got the Chief Superintendent, you have the Superintendent, you have the Deputy Superintendent, and then you have the Inspector, all supervising officers under the Secretary and the Minister. This long chain of officers has been thought necessary for a department which deals with cattle. Let us now turn to the number of officers dealing with human beings, that is, the Medical Department. You have an Assistant Surgeon or an ordinary Sub-Assistant Surgeon and over him you have the Civil Surgeon and over the Civil Surgeon you have the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. Now a de-

partment which has to deal with human beings is supervised only by the Civil Surgeon and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, but the department which has to deal with cattle must be supervised by half a dozen officers one over the other.

Mr. H. Calvert : That is a very bad mistake in a way and I will explain how. For the human beings there is a separate department for cure. There is also as mentioned in the honourable member's speech, a second department for the prevention of disease. I mean the Department of Public Health. But on the human side there is no department for breeding (*laughter*). The cattle department is dealing with cure, prevention and breeding. There is, therefore, a slightly larger number of officers in that department (*laughter*).

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I do not believe that the Public Health Department as a separate unit is at all necessary. In any case I think that the number of officers who are supposed to supervise the work of subordinate officers in the districts in the Veterinary Department is unnecessarily large. Then another very serious complaint that has been made against the administration as a whole by the general public is that almost every branch of the administration is topheavy. There is absolutely no doubt that the number of supervising officers holding posts either in the old imperial branch of the service or the superior branch of the provincial service and the provincial service is unnecessarily large. The number of subordinate officers whose work these officers are supposed to supervise is in some cases not sufficiently large to justify the number of officers who have been engaged in the higher branches of the service. Of course, I cannot at the moment quote exact figures to indicate the precise measure of this top-heaviness in the various branches of the administration, but the complaint is universal and will, on scrutiny, be found to be only too true. Reference was also made by one of the speakers to the appalling waste that takes place in the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch as well as the Irrigation Branch. The honourable member for Lahore (Sardar Habib Ullah) quoted an example in which the district board was able to do same work at a much cheaper rate than the Public Works Department was able to do. I may add another instance of the same nature. Sometime about 1920 or 1921 a grant of Rs. 17,000 was made to the district board of Rohtak, on the ordinary basis of 50 per cent., to metal a road four miles in length. The district board was able to metal the four miles with that Rs. 17,000 without spending a pie out of its own funds. This goes to show clearly that the estimates of the Public Works Department are at least twice as high as those of the district board. It is notorious that a work which can be completed or executed by the Public Works Department for a thousand rupees can be executed by a private agency for not more than Rs. 500. The difference may be even greater. This is a department which has effectively thwarted the attempts of everybody to secure economy ; because, after all, it is a technical department and unless technical officers themselves do something to bring down the expenses the undoubted waste of public money is bound to continue to the dismay and discomfiture of all lay men. With these words I whole-heartedly support the resolution that has been moved by the honourable member for Ferozepore.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : Sir, the honourable member who has just sat down quoted me as saying that the finances of the Punjab Government were in an extremely healthy condition. I made no such assertion, and I do not consider that 'extremely healthy' would be at all a correct phrase in which to describe our existing financial condition. The honourable member has gravely misinterpreted what I said when I stated—and I challenge him to contradict me—that the Punjab Government finances have passed through worse *crisis* than thay are now called upon to weather. I do not for a moment dispute that the economic depression is more severe than it has been for a very long time. I do not for a moment dispute the proposition put forward by my honourable friend, Sardar Ujjal Singh, that the taxable capacity of the people is far lower than it was ten years ago. I did not refer to that. I was merely referring to the financial position of the Punjab Government. I would like to remind this House that in the year 1921-22 the expenditure of that year showed an excess over receipts of no less than 205 lakhs of rupees and in the following year of no less than 88 lakhs of rupees. I do not propose at this moment to disclose the secrets of the budget which I will present to the House next Monday, though I gather the honourable member opposite has in some mysterious way become possessed of part of the proposals. But the position I would present to the House will not at any rate be quite as black as that (*Interruption*). The honourable member for Rohtak went on to give a lot of instances in which he said the administration of the various departments is extravagant. I do not propose to reply to the various details he has given as hardly any of them refer to the departments under my control. I may, at any rate, lay that flattering unction to my soul. The only department under my control to which the honourable member referred was in regard to the departments that deal with the reformation of prisoners and with the criminal tribes. Evidently the honourable member did not read the reply which I gave to his question yesterday in which I stated that those two departments had undergone the very process which he has to-day advocated that is, they have been amalgamated ; and I hope that the result will be a very considerable saving.

The honourable member also compared the cost of civil administration in 1920-21, with the cost in the year 1928-29. He pointed out that there had been an increase of about 39 per cent. But he did not point out that the first year which he used for purposes of comparison was the year before the scheme of reformed Government came into effect. It is notorious that the cost of administration has increased enormously since the reforms. Before the reforms we had for example one Lieutenant-Governor doing the work which is now done by a Governor, two members of Council and three Ministers. I may say that one of the items in civil administration which shows largest progressive increase is the cost of the office of this Council. It is almost the only item in which additional recurring expenditure has been sanctioned during the current financial year.

I do not wish to be thought that I am opposing this resolution. I welcome it. (*Hear, hear*) I shall be glad to have the assistance of a committee of this Council composed as suggested in the resolution in assisting Government in what I agree is a very necessary task of devising means of retrenchment. But I would like the House to understand, and understand clearly

that Government has already begun the task in regard to which it is asked to appoint the committee. So long ago as September or October last year we actually considered the appointment of a committee very much on the lines suggested, and the only reason why Government did not at that time appoint the committee was that the question of retrenchment was so pressing that we had to take steps without waiting for the advice of the committee. What those steps were the House has heard some instances from the lips of the last speaker. He used them as arguments for refuting my alleged statement (which I never made) regarding the extremely healthy condition of the provincial finances. Actually they are instances of retrenchment already effected by Government. He has given only a few of the complete list. The complete list I propose to reserve for disclosure when I present the budget. But honourable members may rest assured that aggregate results will be found to be very considerable. The House will probably remember, in fact one speaker referred to it, the appointment of a similar committee in the year 1921-22. I think I am the only member of this House, with the exception of my old friend Raja Narendra Nath and Mr. Boyd, who was a member of that committee. That committee ranged over the whole field of Government expenditure and made a very large number of suggestions, some of which we found to be impracticable, some of which we found not to produce the savings that the committee estimated, but a good many of which were carried out. The financial effect of the savings recommended and carried out by that commitee is extremely difficult to estimate. But I do not think I shall be very much out when I say that the recurring savings were somewhere about 5 or 6 lakhs a year. Now, my impression of that committee was that it would have been a more practical body if certain members had not gone into it with preconceived ideas which they found rather difficult to change even when confronted with evidence that might have given them pause. I hope that the committee which will no doubt shortly be appointed in pursuance of the resolution will approach this subject with an absolutely open mind and that we may not have members riding their own hobby-horses perhaps to the exclusion of other suitable objects of retrenchment in which they do not themselves feel so much interested. Their survey of the whole subject should be impartial and open minded and I feel sure that, if they do that, they will prove themselves of most useful assistance to Government, in this very important task.

I do not wish for a moment to minimize the necessity for retrenchment on a wider scale. We have begun to do it and we must go on with that task and it is right that we should be assisted in that task by a committee of this House. Therefore, Sir, on behalf of Government I accept the resolution (*hear, hear*).

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders, General): Sir, I should like to say a few words. It would have been better if this proposal had been made after a thorough examination of the budget. However, of all the resolutions that have been put forward before the Council for meeting the present financial stringency this particularly is a proposal which is in a most reasonable form. There is no denial of the fact that financial stringency exists. I hope that the committee that will be appointed will be able to propose reasonable retrenchment and will not put forward their particular hobbies. Before the activities of various departments are

[D. B. Raja Narendra Nath.]

condemned or before any department is considered to be superfluous and wasteful, it will be necessary to examine the records of other provinces also where such departments exist and where they are doing useful work. The results obtained by different departments in other provinces should be obtained and compared with the results obtained in the departmental working of this province. After the retrenchment has been effected it will be time to consider how the money saved is to be utilized. I am entirely at one with the members sitting on opposite benches that the money should be utilized in giving relief to the peasant proprietor and the agriculturists (*Hear, hear*). The present depression and financial stringency is due to world causes. These causes are being investigated. in every country but a proper and exhaustive examination has not yet been completed. We read speeches of public men in England from day to day and from time to time. Even they are groping in the dark. The other day I read a speech of the Prime Minister in which he said the production of the country was satisfactory, the consumption is not less, but there was something between production and consumption which needs further inquiry and examination. Well something like that may be the cause here in this country also. As to the particular causes which affect the prosperity of other provinces and which may be deemed to be political in nature we have been comparatively free (*Hear, hear*), comparatively free though not quite free. But certainly a thorough examination of all the circumstances will necessitate some measure of relief to the agriculturist if not in respect of land revenue which is fixed for a number of years, at least in respect of water rates. We wait to hear the results of measures which have so far been introduced for the relief of poor peasants till the next month when the budget is presented, but I understand that even that small relief which has been given and which reaches only a very limited number of land owners has cost a sum of 27 lakhs. What would it be if further relief were given ? I cannot imagine how far the figures will go up. For all these measures of relief money is to be found somewhere. The Council has already proposed the appointment of a committee to examine the sources of further taxation. I am afraid we shall not be able to make any definite proposals which will lead to any substantial result from that direction. But in the matter of retrenchment we may be able to achieve something to the extent that we were able to achieve when last time a retrenchment committee was appointed and I hope that the proposals of that retrenchment committee will not be followed by any resolutions in this Council for giving relief to those who suffer by the policy of retrenchment. With these few words I support the resolution which has been put forward before the Council and I am glad that it has been accepted by the Government.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "This Council recommends to the Government to appoint a retrenchment committee with a majority of elected members of the Punjab Council for making immediate suggestions for curtailing the provincial expenditure with a view to bringing it to the level of the present poor financial condition of the province."

The motion was carried.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: I want to draw your attention to Article 112 of the Manual of Business and Procedure which says:

> "Every resolution shall be in the form of a specific recommendation addressed to the Government and no resolution shall be moved in regard to any of the following........"

This resolution does not contain any specific recommendation.

Mr. President: This is not a resolution.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Then, may I ask what it is?

Mr. President: It is a motion.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Under which Article?

Mr. President: Cannot a member of this Council make a motion?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Provision is made in the Manual for every kind of motion and business. The only other Article under which a motion not specifically provided for can be moved is Article 126.

Mr. President: May I refer the Honourable Member to Article 62?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: That is about notice. It says:

> "A member who wishes to move a motion (other than a motion for which a period is specially prescribed) shall give, in the case of a substantive motion, at least 7 clear days' and in the case of an amendment at least two clear days' notice in writing........"

Mr. President: If no motion can be made why should a period for notices of motions be provided for?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: I do not say that a motion cannot be made.

Mr. President: May I know the real position of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: A motion can either be moved under Article 112 which means that it must be a specific recommendation—

Mr. President: Article 112 relates to resolutions. A resolution means, no doubt, a motion for the purpose of discussing a matter of general public interest, but it must be in the form of a specific recommendation; while no specific form is prescribed for motion.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I was going to point out that it cannot be moved under Article 112 because it does not contain any specific recommendation. Then Article 126 says :

> "Save in so far as is otherwise provided by these rules or in any case in which a communication is to be made to the Governor under any provision of the Government of India Act or of these rules, no discussion of a matter of general public interest shall take place otherwise than on a resolution moved in accordance with the rules governing the moving of resolutions except with the consent of the President and the Member of the Government to whose department the motion relates."

I wanted to point out that this second condition has not been complied with and therefore this motion—

Mr. President : What is the contention of the Honourable the Leader of the House ? Does he mean that the motion in question cannot be discussed without the consent of the Government Member to whose department it relates.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : That is exactly what I was going to point out that if it does not relate to—

Mr. President : And therefore it is not within the purview of the Article.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No, Sir, there is a further proviso in that Article to which I am going to refer you presently. If the motion relates to any Member of the Government then his consent is necessary ; you will concede that. If it is accepted that the motion relates to any member of the Government then you will concede that it is necessary that his consent should be obtained before it can be moved.

Chaudhri Nazir Husain : Even then it would not be necessary.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member will please allow the Leader of the House to explain his objection.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : If on the other hand it is contended that it does not concern any member of the Government in this House then it must be admitted and also conceded that it is not the concern of the local Government because if you look at the definition of "local Government" as given in the Government of India Act you will find that the local Government means Governor with members of the Executive Council or Governor with the Ministers. That is what constitutes the local Government. So, if it is not primarily the concern of the local Government then sub-clause 3 of this very Article comes into action. It says :

> "The Governor may disallow any motion or part of a motion on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest or on the ground that it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the local Government and if he does so the motion shall not be placed on the list of business."

Mr. President : The motion in question is above all rules and standing orders. The Honourable Member is referred to clause (1) of section 52 of the Government of India Act which expressly empowers the House to reduce the salary of a Minister.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : With due deference to the Chair I beg to differ. Section 52 of the Government of India

Act gives the House power to vote or reduce the salary provided by the Government.

Mr. President : No, no. Government has no power to fix the salary of a Minister. Even the Governor does not possess that power. It is the statute, I mean it is section 52 (1) of the Government of India Act which entitles a Minister to draw the same salary as an Executive Member, unless a smaller salary is provided by the vote of the Legislative Council.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I venture to draw your attention to section 72-D of the Government of India Act. Section 72-D reads as follows :

> "The provisions contained in this section shall have effect with respect to business and procedure in Governors' Legislative Councils."

And it goes on to say—

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : May I ask what section the Honourable member is referring to ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Section 72-D. It says :

> "The estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the province shall be laid in the form of a statement before the Council in each year and the proposals of the local Government for the appropriation of provincial revenues and other moneys in any year shall be submitted to the vote of the Council in the form of demands for grants. The Council may assent, or refuse to assent, to a demand, or may reduce the amount therein referred to either by a reduction of the whole grant or by the omission or reduction of any of the items of expenditure of which the grant is composed."

I would particularly draw your attention to sub-clause (*c*) of the same section. It says :

> "(*c*) No proposal for the appropriation of any such revenues or other moneys for any purpose shall be made except on the recommendation of the Governor, communicated to the Council."

and, therefore, I beg to submit that this section also clearly indicates that this House is not entitled to anticipate the budget or anticipate the recommendations of the Governor.

4 P. M.

Mr. President : In the case of the first appointments, in 1921 I think, the budget was, I presume, presented to the Council in March and that the Ministers did draw a certain salary for the months of January and February of that year. Will the Honourable Member please infrom the House who fixed the salary for those months ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I have no information on the subject but presumably it was sanctioned by the House as a supplementary demand. However if any mistake was committed then it does not follow that another should be committed now.

Mr. President : Will the Honourable Member please read section 52 (1) a little more attentively. It clearly lays down that a Minister may be paid exactly the same salary as an Executive Councillor. This means that a Minister's appointment entitles him to draw the same salary as an Executive Councillor ; unless it is reduced by the vote of the Legislative Council. It is further clear that neither the Governor nor the Government has to fix the salary of a Minister. It is fixed by the statute and can be reduced by the Council under the statute.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : My point is that the Council has no right to reduce it because that salary is not before the House now.

Mr. President : Does the Honourable Member mean that the salary of a Minister can be reduced by the Council at the budget time only ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Yes and the motion in question violates the rule of anticipation as well.

Mr. President : The objection as to anticipation appears to be untenable. Is the Honourable Member in a position to say that the House will probably get an opportunity to discuss the salary of Ministers at the budget time ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No.

Mr. President : Then his objection is clearly untenable.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : May I read out the relevant portion of Article 63. It reads :

> "In determining whether a motion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, the President must have regard to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time."

And I contend that this matter will come before the House in the normal course of business when the budget is presented. It is obvious that unless it is brought before the House, and sanctioned by the vote of this Council, Ministers will get no salary as it is a voted grant.

Mr. President : Had not the last sixteen words of section 52 (1) been there, would not the Council even then be entitled under section 72-D., to reduce the salary of Ministers at the budget time ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Yes, they would be.

Mr. President : Then are the words " unless a smaller salary is provided by vote of the Legislative Council of the province," in section 52 (1), redundant or superfluous ? With what object were these words inserted in the section ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The force of these words as I read them is to make it perfectly clear that nobody but this House can reduce the salary.

Mr. President : If the object of these words was to confer such a right on the Council, can any rule curtail or take away that right ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I admit that the House has got certain rights and liberties and you are the guardian of those rights and liberties. At the same time there are certain restrictions placed by the Statute, Rules and Standing Orders.

Mr. President : If I rightly understand the Honourable Member, his objection is that the Council can reduce the salary of Ministers only at the budget time and not on any other occasion. Is it so ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Yes and I have got good reasons for my contention if you will kindly allow me to say so. If you allow this motion I am afraid it would be impossible to differentiate between a motion for reduction, for reasons of economy and

censure motions. If a precedent is created by allowing a motion like the one now proposed to be moved it would be open to any member to propose at any time that the salary of the Ministers should be reduced to say Rs. 100.

Mr. President : A censure motion can be easily distinguished from a motion intended to effect a financial reduction.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : May I know how, Sir ?

Mr. President: By commonsense which the occupant of this chair is supposed to possess.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I do not mean to question your commonsense, Sir, but may I ask where you would draw the line ? Supposing the House or an individual member considers that Rs. 500 is a reasonable salary, and a motion is made for reduction to that figure, would you in that case call it a censure motion or a cut for effecting economy ?

Mr. President : I will give my decision when such a motion comes before me. I decline to give rulings on hypothetical questions.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is not a hypothetical question. It is an immediate issue. My objection is that if any reduction of Ministers' salary is allowed by a backdoor method like this—

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : I object to the expression "back door." There is nothing illegal or underhand about it.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: I beg the honourable member's pardon. That question is still under adjudication. It has to be decided. I merely wanted to impress upon you that it may lead to evasion.

Mr. President : If I have rightly understood the Honourable Member, one of his objections is that a motion for the reduction of a Minister's salary cannot be made except at the budget time. Another objection is that if it can be made at all on any other occasion it must be subject to the rule contained in Article 126, *i.e.*, subject to the consent of the Member of Government to whom that matter relates.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I have several grounds, every one of them weighty. If you would allow me to finish it would be easier for you to consider the question as a whole and give your ruling. My first objection is that this motion is out of order under Article 112 and you have ruled that it is so.

Mr. President : For the reason that it does not concern the local Government. No. I may mention that there are motions which do not concern the local Government and yet they can be moved in this Council.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Will you please enlighten us as to how they can be made ?

Mr. President : I refer the honourable member to Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice, pages 271 and 324. Certain motions, *e.g.*, a motion to remove the President or the Deputy President of this Council do not relate

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to the Department of any Member of Government, and yet there is no doubt that they can be moved.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : But it concerns the House.

Mr. President: The House is neither the local Government nor a Member of Government.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Does May's Parliamentary Practice apply in all its details to the procedure of this House ?

Mr. President : I have more than once stated from this Chair that in matters expressly provided for by our Rules and Standing Orders, I will not call the Parliamentary Practice to aid, but in the case of matters which are not covered by our Rules and Standing Orders I always resort to Parliamentary Practice, provided it is not inconsistent with our Rules and Standing Orders.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : As a layman not conversant with May's Parliamentary Practice, may I seek your help on one point ? Is there any precedent in the British Parliament where a Minister's salary has been sought to be reduced outside the supply stage ? I tried my best to find if there was any such precedent, but I must confess that I have not been able to discover one.

Mr. President : I would not ordinarily answer questions in the House, but in this case I may inform the honourable members that the salaries of Ministers in the House of Commons are in the hands of the Parliament itself ; they can fix, reduce or increase them by passing a Statute. But our case is different. The salary of an Executive Councillor is fixed by section 85 of the Government of India Act, passed by Parliament. Under section 52 (1) of the same Act, a Minister is entitled to receive the same salary as an Executive Councillor, unless it is reduced by the vote of the Council.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: I wish to point out that section 52 (1) has only the word " may " and not the word " shall."

Mr. President : But I do not think that would have made any difference.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The intention of the section is that Government should be given an opportunity in the first instance of providing a salary for the Ministers.

Mr. President : I have already stated that neither the Government nor the Governor has anything to do with fixing the salary of the Ministers. A Minister is appointed, no doubt, by a Governor, but his salary is regulated by section 52 (1) of the Government of India Act.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : Does the word " may " mean that the Ministers may be paid a smaller salary even from the beginning ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Yes, they can be paid a smaller salary.

Chaudhri Zafarulla Khan : Even without a vote of the Council ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No.

Chaudhri Zafarulla Khan : Then the word "may" in the section amounts to "shall."

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : But the House has a right to reduce the salary. Let me put my objections to the motion one by one. First of all, I have said before and I repeat again, as desired by you, that this motion is out of order under Article 112. There of course, there is no difference of opinion, as I believe it has been conceded that under Article 112 a resolution cannot be moved unless it contains a specific recommendation to Government.

Mr. President : All motions need not be recommendations to Government.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : If the motion does not come under Article 112 it must come under some other Article ; and the only other provision under which motions not specifically provided for can be moved is Article 126.

Mr. President : Article 126 was made in October 1926. The Councils had existed for six years before. Does the Honourable Member mean that no motions could have been moved in a Council before October 1926.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I believe it was because of the difficulty experienced in bringing before the House motions for which no provision existed that Article 126 was later on added. It is obvious that this rule must have been made to overcome this difficulty, otherwise where was the necessity of adding this rule, afterwards ?

Mr. President : The statute expressly provides that a provincial legislative council has the right to reduce the salary of a Minister. The question for decision is when that right can be exercised, and further whether a motion moved in the exercise of that right requires the consent of a Member of Government.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : With regard to that point I have already pointed out that if once you concede that this Council has a right to move a reduction of the Minister's salary by a motion brought before the Council at any time of the year, it would mean that this Council can easily evade the specific provisions of the statute with regard to censure motions on Ministers.

Mr. President : Let us confine ourselves to the first objection. The Honourable Leader of the House contends that without the consent of the Member of Government to whose department the motion relates the matter cannot be discussed in the Council. May I ask to whose department this motion in question relates ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is for the Governor to decide whether any question falls within the purview of the local Government or not under paragraph (3) of Article 126.

Mr. President : That relates to motions, not to resolutions.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The paragraph says that the Governor can disallow "any motion or part of a motion."

Mr. President : Yes, he can disallow a motion.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Is it your ruling that this motion does not relate to any Member of the Government here ?

Mr. President : It is for the Honourable the Leader of the House to specify the Member of Government to whose department the motion in question relates.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : If I may make a suggestion, I would say that the demand for Ministers' salary—Demand No. XIII—General Administration—Transferred—is moved by the Honourable Ministers themselves. The heading shows that the heads of this department are the Honourable the Ministers themselves.

Mr. President : May I take it then that the motion in question relates to the departments of the Ministers themselves ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : In view of that objection from you, the only other department of Government to which the matter can relate is the Finance Department which makes the provision for salaries in the budget.

Mr. President : If a motion were moved for the reduction of the salary of the District Inspector of Schools in the Punjab, would it relate to the Finance Department or to the Minister for Education ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The Minister for Education.

Mr. President : Therefore when the Finance Member has absolutely no voice in either fixing or altering the salary of a Minister how can the motion in question relate to his department ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Then, is it your ruling that this motion does not relate to any department of Government?

Mr. President : Yes, that is my view.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Then the motion is out of order as dealing with a subject which is not primarily the concern of the local Government.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is assuming that our Rules are most perfect and comprehensive, but I regret to say that that is not the case. As already mentioned a motion to remove a President or a Deputy President does not relate to the department of any Government Member and yet such a motion can be moved.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : On this matter, I venture to differ from you. I am certain that the rules relating to this subject are not at all defective.

Mr. President : Does not section 52 (1) give the Council the right of reducing the salary of a Minister ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Yes, but only when the question of salary is brought before the House.

Mr. President : If the Council has a statutory right to reduce the Ministers' salary, that right cannot be curtailed or restricted by Rules and Standing Orders.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No, I do not think so.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No.

Mr. President : I do not think Article 126 applies at all. The next point for decision is whether a Council can reduce the salary of a Minister only at the budget time.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Section 72-D. of the Act read with section 52 makes it clear that the framers of the Act contemplated that the Ministers' salaries should not be attacked at any other time except at the budget stage.

Mr. President : Is the Government prepared to place as Demand No. 1 the demand relating to the salary of Ministers ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I have made it quite clear that the demand relating to the salaries of Ministers will come before the House.

Mr. President : But the question is whether it is practicable that the House will get an opportunity to discuss that demand.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The Rules do not insist that the demand should be discussed. That is the crux of my point.

Mr. President : I find myself unable to accept that view.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The Council is at liberty to throw the whole of the demand if the guillotine is applied. The Demand does not contain any other item of expenditure.

Mr. President : But if the Council does not wish to do away with the services of Ministers ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is not a question of doing away with the Ministers. What will happen is this. When the whole demand is thrown out the Government or the Honourable Minister concerned will come before the Council again with a demand for a supplementary grant and the whole matter can be discussed then.

Mr. President : I have heard at length the Honourable Leader of the House and am yet inclined to think that section 53 (1) expressly confers upon a Council the power to reduce the salary of Ministers and that the Council can exercise that right either when it passes the budget or at any other time.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : With due deference, I should again like to submit that if this practice is allowed it would make it possible for any individual member of this Council to easily evade the specific provisions of the rules and regulations relating to censure motions.

Mr. President : A clear provision of the Government of India Act cannot be overridden by rules made under the same Act.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I have pointed out already that under section 72-D no amount can be appropriated from the provincial revenues unless a motion for its appropriation is brought before the House on the recommendation of the Governor. On this occasion, I submit, there is no motion for appropriation relating to Ministers' salaries.

Mr. President : There is no doubt that no motion for appropriation can be brought before the House without the recommendation of the Governor. But there is no such motion before the House now.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : That is my objection, that we are in this motion anticipating the budget discussions.

Mr. President : I am unable to agree with the Honourable Leader of the House.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Does the motion relate to the Ministers' salary for the present year or for the next year ?

Mr. President : Has not the Honourable Member seen the motion ? It relates to the salary of the Ministers for the next financial year.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The demand for Ministers' salaries for next year is not now before the House. For instance, would it be permissible for a member of the House to move a resolution now, saying that the Grant under Land Revenue be reduced by Rs. 50 lakhs ?

Mr. President : Why not ? Does the honourable member contend that a demand passed by the Council at the budget time cannot be touched by it again ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is not a question of the Council doing it subsequently. The Council can certainly reduce the salaries of Ministers for the present financial year, but in this case the Council is anticipating what is to come in the next budget. There is no demand now before the House ; then, what is the Council trying to reduce ?

Mr. President : The motion is that from next year the salary of the Ministers should be so much.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : In that case, will not this resolution be infructuous if passed ? What will be its effect if the Council agrees to the demand when the budget is presented ?

Mr. President : If the motion in question is moved and carried the officers responsible for managing the finances of the province are bound to give effect to the decision of the House.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Then I am afraid I cannot see eye to eye with you in this matter. Section 72-D. says that this House cannot take cognizance of any demand or appropriate any amount for payment to anybody unless it has been brought before the House, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Mr. President : That part of the section says that when the budget is presented and proposals for passing the demands are made the Council will not take into consideration any demand unless it is first communicated to the Council that His Excellency the Governor recommends that the Council may pass it.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Sub clause (*c*) of section 72-D. says : "No proposal for the appropriation of

any such revenues or other moneys for any purpose shall be made except on the recommendation of the Governor....", and you know where it is a question of the budget coming—

Mr. President : If the salary of Ministers is reduced by the House on the motion in question, the reduced salary will have to be shown in the budget and submitted to the vote of the House on the recommendation of the Governor. The Council can reduce the salary of Ministers, but it cannot fix their number, and it is not inconceivable that the Governor may decide to reduce or increase their number from the next year. Therefore, their salary has to be submitted to the vote of the House in any case with regard to their number.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : When the budget is presented it refers specifically to the financial year to which it relates. Even if the salaries of the Ministers were reduced at the time of the budget the reduction would apply only to the year to which the budget relates, but that is not what is contemplated by section 52. That section says that so long as the Council does not vote a smaller salary, the Ministers' salaries shall be so much. When the House votes a smaller salary that particular amount is entered as the salary of the Ministers.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : What is the authority for that ?

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : The authority is the statute itself—section 52.

Mr. President : Has the Government or the Governor the power to increase the salary of a Minister after its reduction by the Council ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Would the House be entitled to raise the salary ?

Mr. President : No.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : If we stretch the analogy a little further, if this Council passes a resolution that the salary of the Ministers henceforth shall not be more than Rs. 500, then it would according to your ruling mean that the present as well as future incumbents cannot be paid a larger salary. The Government cannot fix more than Rs. 500 because of the resolution passed by the Council and the present or the succeeding Councils will not be able to do so, as they are debarred from doing so under the Act.

Mr. President : But the Council can rescind its decision.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : Then according to the Revenue Member and you, Sir, it would not be for this House to raise the salary of the existing incumbents. What you said was that in the case of new Ministers the Council has the power to reduce. It has not the power to enhance.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : If this Council fixes the salary at Rs. 500, then it shall not be at liberty to raise it again, is that so ?

Mr. President : The Council may reduce the salary, that is from Rs. 5,000, that is the Executive Members' pay, to a lower sum. But it can restore *status quo* by rescinding its decision.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : Supposing the argument were accepted that the reduction can only be during the budget, and during the next discussion on the budget the salary were reduced to Rs. 2,000, and supposing the House were at a later time disposed to grant a larger salary, would it be the contention of the Honourable Revenue Member that that could be done only during the budget ? During the budget an increase cannot take place at all, and then a special vote of the House would be required. That vote would also be under section 52. It would not be during the budget, it could not be addressed to Government, and it would be open to all the objections which the Revenue Member has now raised.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : My contention is that the House will not be at liberty to raise it again.

Mian Nurullah : I understand that you have already given your ruling on the point. Why is then all this discussion going on ?

Mr. President : The point is an important one and I therefore wish it to be thoroughly thrashed out.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : This is a point which not only concerns the present Council but will affect the future Councils. My contention is that no amount can be appropriated for any department without the recommendation of the Governor communicated to this House through Government.

Mr. President : That applies to a motion for appropriation made at the time of the budget. But the motion now in question is not a motion for appropriation. A Council cannot increase a demand for grant at the budget time, but on either occasion it can recommend by a resolution that a certain expenditure be increased.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Nor can this House initiate any measure which would involve appropriation without the sanction of the Governor.

Mr. President : That is so, but the Council can recommend an increase or a decrease by its resolution.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It means that the Council can anticipate.

Mr. President : Repetition is unnecessary. The budget is not before the Council yet.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : What are they trying to reduce then ?

Mr. President : The salary which they know Ministers are getting under section 52 (1).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : They should equally know that those salaries would come before this House during the budget.

Mr. President : I have already explaind my view. Section 52 is a section of the Government of India Act, and it confers a certain power upon the Council and in my opinion no Rule or Standing Order can curtail that power.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It cannot override section 72-D.

Mr. President : It does not.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Sir, may I draw your attention to Article 63 (2) of the Punjab Constitutional Manual ? It reads : "A motion must not anticipate a matter already appointed for consideration by the Council."

Mr. President : Which matter is appointed for the consideration of the Council ?

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Just allow me to explain what I understand by the wording of this plain section . Everyone of us knows that the budget is to come up early next month.

Mr. President : Every demand in the budget is a separate motion and I have received no notice yet of any such motion.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : If we do not know that the budget is coming, how do we know that the salary of the Ministers will come up before the House which the resolution aims at reducing ?

Mr. President : No honourable member has received a copy of the Annual Budget yet and, therefore, none of them knows what demands it will contain.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : With due deference to the remarks made by you I am not satisfied with your explanation.

Mr. President : The honourable member may not be satisfied, but may I point out to him that the Chair should not be criticised like that.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Your order came before my explanation. If you hear me I may be able to satisfy you.

Mr. President : The honourable member is welcome to have his say.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : A motion must not anticipate any matter already appointed for consideration. We received through your Secretary an intimation the other day that a particular date is fixed for the presentation of the budget and that on a subsequent date the consideration of the budget is to be taken up by this House.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member know when it was that he received notice that this motion was coming ?

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : No ; I received a copy of it some days ago.

Mr. President : If I am not mistaken, the notice of the motion in question was received sometime before the notice regarding the presentation and discussion of the budget was received.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Sir, the motion in question reads as follows :

> "This Council resolves that the salary of the Ministers in the Punjab shall be Rs. 2,500 per month from the next financial year."

The use of the word "resolve" shows that it is a resolution.

Mr. President : The word "resolution" may mean a motion or a decision on a motion.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I was pointing out that it was quite possible that there may be no Ministers at all. The Governor may not appoint any Minister from next April or may appoint only one Minister or he may appoint four Ministers from next April. Therefore, I think that it is not right to anticipate what is going to happen on the 1st of April next.

Mr. President : The number of Ministers is not under discussion. The motion in question relates to the salary and not the number of Ministers which can certainly be increased or reduced by Governor. It is the budget that anticipates the motion and not the motion that anticipates the budget. As already stated the notice of the motion was received sometime before the notice of the budget.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : But the honourable member knew that the budget was going to be presented this year.

Mr. President : Everybody equally knew that the motion in question was also coming up.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No, not until it was ballotted. The motion, if I remember aright was received on the 15th, that is, long after notice of the budget session was given.

Mr. President : Notice of this motion was received on the 27th January.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : But, when did the honourable members of the Council come to know that this motion was to be moved ? No doubt notice of the motion was given on the 27th January but it was not ballotted till the 12th February.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : The Chair has three times ruled that this motion was in order. Would it not be better if you give sometime to the Honourable Revenue Member after the Council is over just to convince him of this point ?

Mr. President : But the point of order raised by the Leader of the House has to be decided now.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I understood that you had given the ruling.

Mr. President : I am inclined to rule out the contention of the Leader of the House, but I wish to have the point fully discussed.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Have you any doubt on the point ?

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : What I understood from the earlier part of the discussion was that you were pleased to say that so far as the Punjab Rules are silent we must be guided by May's Parliamentary Practice. I have tried to look into May's Parliamentary Practice and I do not find that there is anything practical in it which may guide us. But with every deference to the views expressed by you, I believe that my learned friend from Sargodha was right when he said—

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I did not say anything, I was about to offer some remarks when I was interrupted.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I will then withdraw those words. I will take the argument which was perhaps in the mind of the honourable member, namely that this Article 63 stands in our way. The Article reads as follows :—

> "A motion must not anticipate a matter already appointed for consideration by the Council whether it be a Bill or an adjourned debate upon a motion. In determining whether a motion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, the President must have regard to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time."

Now, I, with every respect to the explanation given by you, believe that the words stated here are "matter anticipated being brought before the House'." It is nowhere laid down that that matter should be discussed.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member please read the first part of the Article. "A motion must not anticipate a matter already appointed for consideration by the Council". Notice of the motion in question was received on the 27th January last, while the notice for the presentation of the budget was received a few days later.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : But the motion was ballotted on the 12th February.

Mr. President : Notice of this motion was received on the 27th January and notice about the budget was received from the Government on the 3rd February. So notice of this motion was received earlier.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : But, so far as the members of the Government are concerned, the motion came to their notice after it was ballotted.

Mr. President : It is immaterial. The period of a notice commences from the date on which it is received by the Secretary of the Legislative Council and not from the date on which it is communicated to members.

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The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I wish to point out that in this case the motion which the honourable member wants to discuss did not exist at all till after the notice for the budget session was sent, so far as this Council is concerned. The salaries which he wants to reduce do not even exist —much less can be discussed—before they are presented to the House in the budget, and even then appropriation can be made only on the recommendation of the Governor.

Mr. President : I think the Government ought to give definite time for discussing the demand relating to Ministers' salary. May I ask the Leader of the House if he is prepared to do the needful ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : If I may respectfully point out, I have already submitted that this particular item is coming—

Mr. President : But the mere fact that 41 demands, one of which relates to the salary of Ministers, are going to be placed before the Council, in an order which does not render the discussion of that demand reasonably certain, is not enough. According to the Parliamentary practice it is the duty of the Government to so arrange the budget as to entitle the opposition to discuss without fail the salary of Ministers. If the Government insists upon presenting the budget demands in such order as it may please

[Mr. President.]

and if the contention of the honourable members that the motion in question cannot be moved at all is tenable, the conclusion is irresistable that Government defy the opposition and not allow them to discuss the salary of Ministers for 4 or 5 years.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I wish to make it clear again that this item will come before the House in the normal course, and if it does not—

Mr. President : Allow me to put one thing to the Council. The Government Members should have absolutely no voice in this matter. Is it the wish of the elected members of this House to discuss the question of the salaries of Ministers or not ? (*Voices* : Yes). And is it the wish of the honourable members that the Government may very kindly give them an opportunity at the budget time to discuss it ? (*Voices* : Yes). (*A Voice* : If they care to do so). What has the Honourable the Leader of the House to say now ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I wish to make it quite clear that it is not the intention of the Government Members to try to stifle discussion in regard to Ministers' salary. My object in objecting to the admission of this motion is purely to avoid the setting up of a precedent which may be against the letter and spirit of the law and regulations and as a matter of—

Mr. President : Then accommodate them.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I have already pointed out in making my submissions that if an unfortunate precedent of this kind is created it will lead to difficulties. Under your guidance this House has set up healthy and wholesome precedents and conventions and if this precedent is allowed it may lead to chaos and undo all those healthy traditions which this House has been trying to set up. Any member might bring forward a motion and try to evade—

Mr. President : May I again ask the Leader of the House whether he is prepared to so arrange the budget demands as to make it possible, nay certain for the opposition to discuss the salary of Ministers ? I hope he will help the Council by setting up a wholesome precedence by agreeing to accommodate the opposition.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is not the intention of the Government to thwart the honourable members in—

Mr. President : Will the Honourable Leader of the House please answer my question ? Is the Government prepared to accommodate the opposition ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It has just been pointed out that only a small section of this House wants to discuss this motion. I was going to point out that it rests with the House to get on to this item—

Mr. President : I beg your pardon—

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is open to the House to skip over other items and get on to this one and if it

finds that this particular item will not be reached, then it will be open to the members to ask Government for a special day for discussing this motion.

Mr. President : May I take it then that the Government is not prepared to cede definitely to the opposition an opportunity to discuss the budget demand relating to the salary of Ministers ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I think it is also open to them in case they cannot get on to this grant to move an adjournment of the House, and achieve the object they have in view.

Mr. President : Will the Honourable Member please give a definite reply ? He very well understands that the course suggested by him is full of difficulties.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : What I have to suggest is that in case the House finds that it cannot get on to the demand for Ministers' salaries—

Mr. President : What would happen if that demand is closured ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It will then be open to them to throw out the whole grant, not with a view to censure the Ministers—but just as this resolution is supposed to be—for reasons of economy, with a view to force the Government to come up, before the House with a supplementary demand for grant again.

Mr. President : I think the Honourable Member very well understands that the procedure suggested by him, assuming it to be legal, is very cumbersome.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : So far as the giving of a special day is—

Mr. President : Perhaps it is difficult for the Leader of the House to agree to my suggestion without consulting His Excellency and his colleagues.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I must have time.

Mr. President : The motion in question is in order and I rule accordingly.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : Sir, I beg to move :

> "That this Council resolves that the salary of the Ministers in the Punjab shall be Rs. 2,500 per month from the next financial year."

Mr. President : What does the honourable member mean by the "salary of the Ministers "? Does he mean the salary of all the Ministers to be Rs. 2,500 or of each Minister ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : Of each Minister.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : There might be 2 or 4 of them.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I do not know how many Ministers there will be next year. I wish each Minister should get Rs. 2,500.

Mr. President : So the salary of a Minister in the Punjab shall be Rs. 2,500.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [*Urdu*]: Sir, I regret to say that the Honourable Revenue Member has wasted so much time in opposing this resolution on technical grounds only. It would have been far better for him if he had shown the same generous spirit which the other honourable members of the Government benches had shown yesterday with regard to the resolution recommending the voluntary surrender of some portion of their salaries. This opposition has gone a long way to show the difference between the mentality of the English bureaucracy and the Indian bureaucracy, in all its nudity. The country is fortunate that public opinion has been formed to the effect that the expenditure of a top heavy administration should be curtailed. We have been hearing in this House as well as outside voices requesting the Government to cut down its expenditure. The majority of the resolutions that have been moved since the beginning of this session are directly or indirectly demands for the reduction of the expenditure. Yesterday a resolution was brought in to request the members of the Indian Civil Service to voluntarily make a surrender of some reasonable portion of their salaries and it was carried unanimously. It showed how far the people have realised the necessity of effecting economy. Now is the time when the honourable members should come forward to do something practical and thus discharge the duties they owe to their constituents. If they are really interested in the welfare of the heavily taxed zamindars then they should make a sincere effort to achieve that end by pressing this demand forcibly. Let it be made clear to the Government that the penury of the agriculturists is such that they are quite incapacitated to pay any more taxes.

Now, coming to the real matter in hand, you already know that the notice of this resolution was given to you by some 18 or 20 honourable members of this House. At the time when we sent the notice of this motion there was no ill-will lurking in our minds against the Honourable Ministers. We sent this resolution merely in the interest of the indigent zamindar who is too poor to meet any further demands of the Government to pay taxes. We have no intention to censure the policy of the Honourable Ministers by bringing in this motion. No personal ill-will or animus is underlying this resolution. The Ministers are very able and efficient. They are popular and full of ambitions. We have every confidence in them. I know all the three Honourable Ministers personally. They have been my friends for the last so many years. They are very intimate with us and invite us to dinners. They are very courteous and hospitable. Only last night one of the Honourable Ministers gave a very sumptuous dinner. The honourable members who were invited there still feel the taste of the dainty dishes in their mouths. Unfortunately illness kept me from going there. I want to make it once for all clear that there is no feeling of grudge or rancour present in our hearts to goad us to move this resolution. There is no motive or hostile spirit underlying this motion.

The objections that can be hurled against this most reasonable motion are two in number. First of all it can be advanced against it that by reducing the salary of the Honourable Ministers you would be automatically reducing their status as compared with that of the Honourable Executive Councillors. The second objection that can be placed against this motion is that no able and efficient gentleman would be coming forth to serve on such a small salary that has been proposed in the resolution. Both these

objections are based on sentimental grounds and lack of understanding of the position of the Honourable Ministers.

With your permission I shall first take up the first objection and show you how shallow it is. This objection is nothing more than the failure to understand that status does not depend upon the salary one gets. Many of the honourable members have read books on constitution. They know what salaries are paid to the Ministers and very high functionaries of Governments in other countries. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom gets only £ 5,000 a year. If the amount of income tax that he pays is deducted from this sum, it will come to less than the salary of our Ministers. The Prime Minister makes the appointments of the Viceroy, the governors of the provinces, and the chief judges of the high courts in India. The Viceroy gets more pay than the Premier, and the governors and the judges, if not more, at least as much pay as he gets. In England, the Prime Minister appoints the Lord Chancellor who gets an annual salary of £ 10,000 and although the Lord Chancellor gets more salary, still he is subordinate to the Premier. To make salary the standard of an officer's status is wrong. The Ministers' status is already higher than that of the Executive Councillors, for they are our representatives and have got our confidence and our support. I am a nominated member of the Lahore Municipal Committee. But I realize very often that I do not have the same status as an elected member has. In the India Office the Indian Member always gets a higher pay than his English colleagues. The latter have never objected to it on the ground that it in any way reduces their status. You have got the examples of the Legislative Councils of other provinces before you. In Bihar and Orissa each Minister gets Rs. 4,000 a month. In the Bombay Presidency the Ministers get the same salaries as is given in the aforesaid province. In the Central Provinces they get Rs. 3,000 per mensem each. In the United Provinces also they get Rs. 3,000 per mensem each. The Ministers of none of these provinces have ever complained that their low salaries minimise their status. Who at present does not know Mustafa Kamal ? He is only getting Rs. 800 a month. His many officers get higher salaries than this petty sum which he gets. Mussolini, the Dictator of Italy, gets only Rs. 1,500 a month. The Japanese Minister gets Rs. 2,000 a month. The annual salaries of the members of the English Cabinet starts from £2,000 upwards. Some get more some get less. The differences in their pay do not create differences in their status. They sit and vote together and have equal rights. I ask if at some time you are required to engage the services of some foreign engineer in connection with your Hydro-Electric Scheme on Rs. 10,000 a month, would it give an execuse to the Honourable Minister sitting opposite to threaten to resign on the ground that his status has been lowered.

Now I come to the second objection, namely that few able men would be forthcoming to serve on such small salaries. There might be lurking in the hearts of the honourable members a fear that their Honourable Ministers will resign if their salaries are reduced by even such a small sum as Rs. 5. If there is any such fear present in the heart of the honourable members then I may tell them that it is quite unfounded. They should not think so low of their Ministers. The Honourable Ministers are men of very high principles. They are patriots and are serving their country from no other

[K. B. Sardar Habib Ullah.]

motives than those of love and affection they bear to their motherland. They are not mercenary and will not be swayed by monetary considerations. If you request them to do honorary service, you will find them too ready to accede to your request. Lahore Municipal Committee is a big body with an annual disbursement of 25 lakhs of rupees. Our Honourable President has served it as its president for so many years honorarily. I have been serving the Lahore District Board for the last ten years and the thought of getting some remuneration for my services has never crossed my mind. Therefore, it is wrong to say that the Honourable Ministers will protest against any reduction, in their salaries. We have got the examples of foreign countries before us. In England the members of the cabinet can get far higher salaries than what they are getting at present if only they go and join service with some business firms there. There are many such examples in which people have left very lucrative jobs in order to serve their motherland. You have got two such instances in your own High Court. If our present Chief Justice, Sir Shadi Lal and Bakhshi Tek Chand had continued their practice at the bar they would have by this time earned much more money than what they now earn by way of monthly salaries. You will always find men to serve their country at any cost. Let the honourable members of this House judge for themselves as to what the Government can possibly gain by cutting down the salaries of menials like chaprasis and junior members belonging to the category of clerks. But if the resolution under discussion be accepted, there will be a clear saving of Rs. 7,500 per mensem. And certainly these gentlemen who are sufficiently rich will not suffer much thereby. Now suppose we are able to spend the money thus saved in providing work for a hundred and fifty men with a pay of rupees fifty each, we will be saving a hundred and fifty families from starvation. And this is not a small part of the population of the unemployed in the country. But, if we propose to utilise this amount in some other way, useful items will be found for provincial expenditure. Only the other day when we were having a discussion in the Elementary Education Committee, we found ourselves overwhelmed by the public demand as to the immediate enforcement of compulsory education. But the only obstacle in our path is the lack of funds. As regards the remedy for the present financial stringency, no one of them has so far come forward with a proposal for fresh taxation. Every body feels that our expenditure is abnormally high. If the administration is entrusted to my hands or those of a company, the whole business can be run with half the present expenditure. The Honourable Ministers have been practically though not formally elected by us. We respectfully beseech them to stand with good grace and say that since the nation has the need of this small sacrifice on their part, they are ready to make it. The time is fast approaching when leaving aside the Ministers many other people will have to surrender their salaries. I think there is none of us who justifies the present salaries of our Ministers. The masses have begun to feel that their Ministers have no right to draw five thousand rupees per mensem. I say that it will be for their own good to voluntarily accept this motion. I fervently hope that every member of this House will whole-heartedly support this resolution.

Pir Akbar Ali : We will after your speech.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I would like to ask my friends on the Government benches to support this motion with the same spirit which was manifested by them in connection with yesterday's resolution. I am sorry that the Honourable the Leader of the House wanted to avoid this issue. As far as I have been able to gather from the lobby conversation I can say that most of them are in favour of this motion. I shall ask once more my friends on the Government benches to associate themselves with this resolution rather than try to shield the cause of their colleagues. With these words, I beg to commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President :

> "This Council resolves that the salary of the Ministers in the Punjab shall be Rs. 2,500 per month from the next financial year."

Mian Nurullah [Lyallpur South (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I have been hoping against hope that the Honourable Ministers—

Mr. President : I request the honourable member to be brief and not to repeat arguments advanced by the mover of the motion.

Mian Nurullah : I will try to keep clear of those arguments. I was saying that I was hoping against hope that after the learned speech that we have just heard the Honourable Ministers would get up and agree to make a voluntary reduction of Rs. 1,000 at least in their pay.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : You are very much mistaken.

Mr. President : The honourable member is repeating the argument of the previous speaker.

Mian Nurullah : I am only saying that I was entertaining the hope, but I was disappointed. The reason why they have not done this is because they feel so sure of their ground. My honourable friend reminded me of last night's dinner. I was present there and somebody told me : "After this dinner it is not proper that you should go and vote for the reduction of the salary of Ministers." (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. President : The honourable member should not cast reflection.

Mian Nurullah : I am not casting any reflection, Sir. I was only referrring to the conversation among the members. When he gentleman told me like that I replied that the dinner was purely a private function, that I would, if I can afford it, give a dinner to the Honourable Ministers if they came to my house and that these matters had nothing to do with the policy of retrenchment in Government expenditure on our public life.

Mr. President : The honourable member should speak to the motion before the House.

Mian Nurullah : Yes, Sir. In deciding the fate of the motion honourable members should keep in mind the miserable condition of the tax-payers of the province whom they represent here more than anything else.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Most of the honourable members here were not invited to the dinner, but anyhow we are going to vote against this resolution. (*Hear, hear*).

Mian Nurullah : The resolution passed by the House yesterday showed that there was a sincere desire in all quarters of the House for retrenchment in Government expenditure.

Mr. President : The honourable member is repeating the argument advanced by the honourable mover of the motion.

Mian Nurullah : The strongest argument that can be advanced against reducing the salary of Ministers is the argument of equal status between the Ministers and Executive Councillors. (*Honourable Members :* That has been dealt with). Should I not give my own views on this question ?

Mr. President : By all means.

Mian Nurullah : Thank you, Sir. The strongest argument against reduction is the argument of equal status. On that point section 52 about which there has been a discussion in this House is very clear. It makes a distinction between the status and the salaries of the officers concerned. It says that the status of the Ministers should be equal to that of the Executive Councillors, but the amount of salary to be paid to the Ministers is left to the discretion of the Legislative Council. The Council has the power to reduce the salary to any extent below that of the Executive Councillor. It is left to the sweet will of the House to decide what pay they will grant to their Ministers. The only other thing that the Council has to bear in mind is that the Ministers should be paid sufficient to enable them to discharge their duties properly and live with dignity and comfort. Judging by these standards I am afraid the salary of Rs. 2,500 proposed by the mover of the motion seems to be too low. Therefore I want to raise it to Rs. 3,333-5-4 a month. Let me explain to the House how I arrived at this figure. I should be quite willing to pay the statutory maximum of Rs. 5,333-5-4 to the Ministers if their number was reduced to one or two. I remember one of our Honourable Ministers—an able Minister—used to say that he could do the work of all the three Ministers single-handed. Now I would like to put a question to my honourable friend, Dr. Narang.—I am sorry he is not here—why cannot he take up all the work ? We will pay him Rs. 5,000. We would have no objection to that. From what we have seen in the Council during the last few days, if we compare the work that is done by the Honourable the Finance Member and the Revenue Member with that done by the three Ministers, we will find that the work of the two Members exceeds the work of the three Ministers. Therefore my suggestion is that the salary of the two Members should be divided among the three Ministers-, each Minister thus getting Rs. 3,333-5-4.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : You ought to pay us more.

Mian Nurullah : With these words I move —

> "That for the words and figures 'Rs. 2,500' the words and figures 'Rs. 3,333-5-4' be substituted"

Mr. President : Motion under consideration, the amendment moved is—

> "That for the words and figures 'Rs. 2,500' the words and figures 'Rs. 3,333-5-4' be substituted."

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I wish to repeat the assurance, not the argument, but the assurance given to the Honourable Ministers by the two previous speakers, (*Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit:* There was no assurance) namely, that the object of this motion, at least as amended in the manner in which I have submitted it should be amended, namely by substituting the word and figures "Rs. 4,000" for the word and figures, "Rs. 2,500" in the second line of the motion does not in the slightest degree amount to or reflect any kind of censure or discredit upon the Honourable Ministers. The whole object of the motion is two-fold, one to effect a certain amount of saving so far as the salaries of the Ministers are concerned in view of the present financial stringency, and secondly to enable the Ministers to set an example to their colleagues as well as all salaried officers in the matter so as to enable them to come forward with voluntary surrenders and to enable others whose pay has been reduced or is likely to be reduced to be reconciled to the reduction. Sir, in the present distressed condition of the province if there is one individual who is in a more favourable position than before these distressed conditions came into operation, it is the salaried official. His salary stands at the same figure or is even higher by virtue of increments or increased emoluments or allowances to which he may have become entitled during the course of the last year or two, whereas the prices of commodities certainly seem to have gone down with a crash and this therefore places the salaried official in a very much more favourable position than any other section of the community. It, therefore, behoves the salaried officials, at any rate those of them who hold their office by virtue of the confidence which they claim that this House places in them, to come forward voluntarily or as a result of the request being conveyed to them from certain sections of this House to say that they are prepared at least during the present condition of the province to forego a portion of their salaries in order that the object of this motion which I have outlined may be achieved. Certain kinds of objections have been dealt with in anticipation by the two previous speakers on this motion, and certainly one of them is an objection which is trotted out on several occasions whenever there is a proposal to cut the salaries of the Ministers and that is the question of status and dignity. In dealing with this objection I shall try to avoid as far as possible the arguments that have been advanced in refutation by previous speakers but I shall say this to the Honourable Ministers that the question of their salaries has nothing whatsoever to do with the dignity or the status which attaches to their office. Apart from the fact that in certain other provinces Ministers enjoy salaries and emoluments which are far less than those enjoyed by their colleagues of the Executive Council, apart from that, I submit the Ministers must recognise and must find means to give expression to the belief that they occupy no higher status and they can claim no higher dignity than that which they occupy in the hearts of the people of the province and that if they cease to occupy a position of dignity and honour in that respect no amount of emoluments that may be granted to them could add to their dignity and status. That being the true standard of dignity they should consider that when a large majority of their countrymen are suffering distress of the acutest kind it is their duty and they should make it their privilege to come forward and say that so far as in them lies the question of dignity or the question of status is the least that they would consider and that they come forward to alleviate this distress and to enable relief to be given where it is necessary. I am not discussing at present the position of people whose salaries are

[Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan.]

guaranteed or who come out to India on a covenant with Government. Their position is peculiar. I am aware that it has been possible in the past in this House, it is possible to-day that each Minister has a group of personal friends in this House who would be rather unwilling to enforce this demand against the Honourable Ministers when the Honourable Ministers are not themselves willing to accept this demand from certain sections of the House, but that does not deter me from my duty in giving advice, and I use the word advisedly, to the Honourable Ministers that the only graceful thing they can do is to accept this motion at least in the form in which I have put it. They should rise to the occasion and accept the demand.

With regard to the Government benches I would also say without repeating too many arguments about it that everyone of us must do his mite to our utmost capacity to afford relief where it is wanted in this matter. A constitutional matter is involved in regard to official benches. They have time after time admitted the financial stringency. They have time after time refused to put in motion proposals of a beneficent character because there is not enough money to finance those proposals. They have times out of number admitted the necessity for retrenchment and here is a matter which ought entirely to be left to the wishes of the Council, and I would therefore put it to them that in this matter they will not desire to defeat the wishes of the Council simply because there is offensive and defensive alliance between the transferred half and the reserved half of the Government. If that is so, the suspicion which already exists from past experience will be confirmed that the official block in this House is constantly used to defeat the principle of responsibility of the Ministers to the House and through the House to the people of this province. It will only be another instance but a very much stronger instance that that is the manner in which that responsibility has been baulked of its operation. I would therefore submit to the Honourable Ministers themselves that it is up to them to accept the motion as it stands, not as something that is forced upon the House but something which is expected of them as the representatives of the people, as the guardians of the welfare of the people and to whom the welfare of the people should be the truest object as against any personal or private considerations. With these words I put my motion before the House.

Mr. President : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

"That for the figures 2,500 the figures 4,000 be substituted."

Maulvi Sir Rahim Bakhsh (Nominated, Non-official) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I have risen to strongly oppose the resolution moved by one of the honourable members of this House. I really regret to say that some people think that we can serve our country and save poor people from poverty and starvation by curtailing the salaries of the Ministers. I am fully alive to the prevailing economic distress and depression in the country. But I am at a loss to understand how we can tide over the difficulty by reducing the salaries of the poor Ministers.

(*Voices* : Poor Ministers! *Hear, hear*). I call the Ministers poor because they have been attacked. When a certain pay has once been fixed for them, why should we now fret and fume over it. There is no doubt about

it that the economic condition of our country is very serious and appalling. But if you are really anxious to serve the poor and help the needy, then let us take our hats in hand and go round from place to place to beg alms, and provide food to the poor. I feel sure that hundreds of our generous and benevolent countrymen will come forward with their charity and give a hearty response to our appeal. If you really want to serve the country, then put on the roll of the Missionary. With these words, I strongly oppose the motion.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan [Ambala Division, North-East (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I rise to oppose this motion on several grounds. In the first place the motion has been put forward for the reduction of the salaries of the Ministers. The Revenue Member and the Finance Member can still continue to draw the old salaries. When the salaries of the Ministers are reduced they will not command the respect of the public. When they go to the district, what will the Deputy Commissioner say who gets higher salary than the Minister? He will say that the Minister is only in name and he really will not respect him. Examples have been given from countries outside India. Perhaps in countries other than India no great value is attached to the salary but in India salary is the prime question. Salary is a means of greater respect being commanded by the officer who draws it.

Yesterday when the House passed a resolution to the effect that the officials whose salaries could not be reduced should be requested by the local Government to make a voluntary surrender, it was only a sort of a request, but in this case we are putting an axe at the salary of the Ministers. If Government acts up to that resolution, it may require a small portion of the pay of the other servants, but in the case of Ministers the axe is exactly put down, it is cut down by half, and the effect of that will be that no good man will be forthcoming. Possibly all the three Ministers may resign and that will create trouble. Who can think that such an able Minister like our Minister for Local Self-Government (Dr. Narang) can content himself with Rs. 2,500 when he was making more than Rs. 5,000 at the bar? It is unthinkable and if you want him to serve the nation he must serve it free. Why should he take Rs. 2,500 and yet be called a man who is serving the nation free?

In other countries the case may be different, but in India great value is attached to the pay of an officer. Go to any district and you will see that the people and the district officers will respect you in accordance with your pay. I will give an example. Recently I knew of a district in which the Revenue Assistant was getting Rs. 300 and the Tashildar Rs. 400. The result was that there was a good deal of friction and the Tashildar never cared for the Revenue Assistant. He would tell the Revenue Assistant that he was getting less pay than he himself was getting and that it was not for the Revenue Assistant to be ordering him. I am taking examples from India. In our country the less the pay the less the respect. Can you give any example here in India of an officer who is getting less pay than his subordinates?

6 P. M.

In my opinion this resolution is not based on *bona fide* motives.

Mr. President: Will the honourable member please withdraw that expression?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I withdraw it, Sir. Anyhow, as Sir Rahim Bakhsh was pleased to point out, the saving to be expected by this reduction will be like a drop in the ocean. Besides we have already passed a resolution for the appointment of a retrenchment committee. Why should we not leave it to that committee to see if the Ministers are taking exorbitant salaries or not and to make recommendations for their reduction ? We must not deal with the question precipitately. When we get the retrenchment committee working, let us see what the results of its labours are. Besides, if you want to reduce the pay of the Ministers you must do so after the pay of the Revenue and the Finance Members is settled.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Do you mean increasing or decreasing ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I mean decreasing. That we must do first, because they belong to the reserved side of the Government. Instead of making recommendations for the reduction of their pay, why attack the salary of the poor Ministers who are under our control. As regards the request which some honourable members have addressed to the Ministers that they should make a voluntary surrender of their pay, I see that the Ministers have not responded to that and I do not think we have a right to make that request.

Pir Akbar Ali [Ferozepore, (Muhammdan) Rural] (*Urdu*) *:* Sir, The resolution now before the House has created a very trying situation inasmuch as it will test the sense of duty, courage and integrity of the honourable members of the House. I am sure only those honourable members of the House who possess sufficient moral courage will vote according to the dictates of their conscience. It is no use saying that such proposals may be considered after the budget is presented. Sir, as I have already impressed upon the House this morning, the zamindar's plight to-day is most pitiable. It is time now for you to show that you are well-wishers of the zamindars as well as of your country. You have to ignore your personal relations and show courage. I wonder why silence prevails over the official benches. The reason perhaps is that they are not convinced of what we have stated. When they will be convinced of that they will agree to reduction being made in their salaries. Now I would proceed to refute briefly the main argument advanced against the proposal. It has been said that capable persons would not agree to work as Ministers on small salary. With regard to this I would submit that our Ministers are not that sort of people. They have come to serve the country. Most of them have been earning more than what they get now. They belong to most respectable families. Pay is no consideration for them. If their salaries are reduced, they would still, I am sure, continue to serve the country as enthusiatically as they have been serving hitherto. I do not believe that our Ministers are here only for the sake of salaries. They are patriots. They would not mind if reduction is made in their salaries. Two amendments have been moved in connection with this resolution, but in my opinion the original proposal is sound. Let the salary of a Minister be reduced to Rs. 2,500 per mensem. We cannot afford to pay more. With these words I resume my seat.

Sardar Sampuran Singh [Lyallpur (Sikh) Rural] : I fully appreciate the view point of the honourable mover of this resolution and I also fully

sympathise with the ideas which have been expressed by the speakers who have enlightened us on this resolution. I may say in the very beginning that I am for retrenchment and for reduction of salaries all round. But at the same time I think that we would be making an invidious distinction if we attack the salaries of the Ministers who happen to be from amongst us and leave the other people safe whom we have constitutionally no power to touch. I think we should handle the question in a general way and not make any invidious distinctions by attacking only one or two persons out of the huge machinery of Government. If we examine whether the Ministers really get a pay which is commensurate with their position and dignity which they have to keep up, I should think, considering the general standard by which the Government pays their services, that they are just getting the proper pay. It is for this reason that I submit that it would not be proper to attack their salaries without touching the other parts of the Government machinery.

There is another aspect of the question. All other Government servants enjoy their salaries while in service and after their retirement they get a pension. But the Ministers have no such privilege. If a Minister retires after a period of service he gets nothing for his services after retirement. If the Minister happens to be a professional man, and he goes back to his profession after serving the Government as a Minister for some years, he will more or less have to restart afresh from the very beginning in his profession and there will be nothing to recoup for that loss. Considering all these points, I submit that the salary of the Ministers should not be reduced until and unless the whole machinery is dealt with like that.

Chaudhri Shah Muhammad [Sheikhupura (Muhammadan) Rural] (*Urdu*): Sir, speeches have been made both in favour of and against the resolution now before the House. Of course reduction in the provincial expenditure is essential. Without this we cannot do. But in my humble opinion reduction in the salaries of two or three individuals will not improve matters. You cannot touch the salaries of the Executive Councillors. Some honourable members are of opinion that because we can cut the salaries of Ministers, let us do it first. That is not a weighty argument. I say reduction should be made all round. Reduction in the salaries of one or two persons is not justified and cannot help us. My honourable friend, the member for the Lahore Muhammadan Rural constituency (Sardar Habibullah), while moving his resolution said that if the proposed reduction was effected, the saving thus made could be utilised for the maintenance of 150 families. Frankly speaking I should admit that I have not been able to follow his calculations. One honourable member moved that the salary of a Minister should be Rs. 4,000 while another member proposed Rs. 3,000 per mensem. Sup posing the salary is fixed at Rs. 4,000 the saving would be Rs. 36,000 per annum. I cannot understand how you can maintain 150 families with this sum. Of course the other arguments advanced by the honourable mover in favour of his resolution are very convincing. But I cannot agree to the data he has laid before the House. Again it has been said that we should not be influenced by sentiment. I ask, why ? When sentiment plays a prominent part in all other matters why should it have no force in this particular matter ? Why is it that the Ministers who enjoy the same status as the Executive Councillors should get less pay than that which the latter get. Of all persons and bodies, why should the Council lower their

[Chaudhri Shah Muhammad.]

position? I may remind the House here that so far all the Ministers have been men of very high position in the public eye and that one and all were either earning or could have earned Rs. 5,000 elsewhere. That would show that the question whether they get Rs. 4,000 or even less does not matter much to them. It is their status that must be kept in tact because they are as good heads of certain departments as the Executive Councillors are. The honourable mover of the resolution should have waited till the nationalists came into power. There is at present no Gandhi amongst us who would be prepared to serve his country without any remuneration.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Even now there are many in this Council who are prepared to discharge the duties of Ministers honorarily (*laughter*). Yes, there are.

Chaudhri Shah Muhammad : If the honourable mover had waited till that time this question would have been easily solved. The members will perhaps be aware that already there is a feeling that the departments under the Ministers are of no great importance and therefore the employees in these departments are not looked upon as men of any note. For example, a teacher of a school is considered as a third rate man although he is responsible for the building of the character of all youngmen. The service of a committee is considered as no service at all and these are some of the departments under the Ministers of Education and Local Self-Government. Look at this question from whatever point of view, you will find that this resolution is for the present unnecessary and un-called for. If there is to be retrenchment, it should be made applicable to all services alike. I, therefore, oppose this resolution.

Khan Sahib Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan [Rawalpindi (Muhammadan) Rural] (*Urdu*): Sir, I know that the time at our disposal is very short, but I shall be content to say one or two words and that will take hardly two or three minutes. I was very much grieved to hear this remark made by Khan Bahadur Habib Ullah that we were entertained at a party by a Minister implying thereby that we were thus won over to support him and his colleagues. That is a very low estimate about ourselves and a gentleman would certainly feel it an insult offered in sugar-quoted words. We do not covet such entertainments and we can afford to have such enjoyments at our own place. I was certainly much more grieved when an honourable member from these benches went so far as to attack our honesty of purpose. He was pleased to say that voting in favour of or against this motion would show as to who was honest and who was dishonest. He should have known that every one has his own opinions and convictions and if one happens to differ from another on a certain point, it does not necessarily follow that one is honest and the other is dishonest. Before I sit down I should like to say that one should not go too far in his zeal to support a certain proposition. With these words I strongly oppose the motion before the House.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Sir, I rise to oppose this motion; and I will take very briefly the arguments that have been advanced by the honourable mover of this resolution. One of the arguments advanced by him was that in other provinces the Ministers' salaries were less than Rs. 5,000. That would appear a very good argument for the reduction of the

salaries of the Ministers and had that been the only argument I would have perhaps voted for it along with my friend, the honourable mover. But the honourable mover of this resolution forgets that the reduction of the salary of those Ministers took place long long ago and when the honourable member presents a resolution of this kind it gives a look and an appearance of being merely a party move, because when the members of that party were in office a motion should have been brought for the reduction of the salaries on that occasion on that very ground, namely that Ministers in other provinces were drawing less salary than Rs. 5,000. Then, Sir, there is the argument which my honourable friend brought forward, namely that high officials like the Prime Minister in England and others have been drawing less salaries than are allowed to the Ministers in the Punjab. The same argument which I have advanced with regard to other Ministers applies to this also. They have been drawing these from the very beginning and such a motion should have been brought from the very beginning. Now, when this is the last Council, such a motion, I submit, gives an impression not only to the people here, but to the people outside also, that it is merely a party move and therefore we cannot be a party to it at this stage. Then, Sir, the honourable member stated that it would be really on the ground of economy. I ask you whether the House can make up its mind on this ill-considered proposal of the reduction of the salary of the Ministers. These gentlemen who are in favour of the reduction of the salaries of the Ministers have not yet been able to make up their own minds. One honourable member proposed Rs. 2,500, another gentleman got up and proposed Rs. 3,333-5-4 and a third gentleman said it should be Rs. 4,000 and I heard actually when I was being canvassed for this that really these Ministers did not deserve more than Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,500. Now, when 8 or 9 members get up to propose motions of this kind and they themselves are not united as to what the reduction should be, how can they ask this seriously minded House to vote with them. First of all, they should be in a position to come with a considered motion before the House and then they should ask us to vote with them, and this has not been done. Again, this House has appointed just now a committee for retrenchment. It would be better if all these honourable members brought forward their proposals at that time. Besides, there should have been a general reduction all round. You cannot ask the House seriously to vote with you when you put forward proposals of this kind. Why should the Ministers only be singled out. Has not this Council the right over the President's salary, over the Deputy President's salary and over the allowances drawn by various members. You know and I know that many of the honourable members travel in second class and some in intermediate class and still we get first class travelling allowance. If there is a general deficit in the budget we should first of all have taken ourselves into account and set an example that reduction should start from us. There was a time when some members of the Council were drawing Rs. 5,000 for doing nothing and they were not doing any work to justify the payment, I am referring to the post of the Deputy President who was not called upon to do any kind of work. A reduction should have been made with regard to the salary of the Deputy President. So, on the basis of these things, I submit that the mentality at the back of the proposers of this motion is merely a party move and we cannot be a party to the reduction of the salary of the Ministers. I leave out the question of status

[Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.]
which has been dealt with. When the Honourable Ministers accepted the office they definitely thought that they were to draw a salary of Rs. 5,000—.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : And they did not read section 52 of the Government of India Act.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Therefore if any Minister under that impression stood up and accepted the post it is unfair to single him out, and ask him to make a surrender of his salary. I can assure you, I know the Honourable Ministers very well, they are not less patriotic than those honourable members who have brought forward this proposal and when there is a general reduction I can assure the House that they will be the first to surrender a part of their salary (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. D. J. Boyd : I move—

That the question may now be put.

The motion was carried.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I wish to say just a word by way of reply.

Mr. President : No. I cannot allow.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : It is more a point of personal explanation than by way of reply.

Mr. President : If the honourable member has been misconstrued or misinterpreted he is quite welcome to make a personal explanation, but it should not be a speech.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah (*Urdu*) : I want to assure Pandit Nanak Chand that I had no intention of misconstruing any action of honourable members.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Then, why did you mention the dinner ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I did not say anything against the dinner. On the other hand all that I said was in its favour. What I meant was this that the Honourable Ministers are very intimate with us and now and then honour us by inviting us to dinners.

Mr. President : The original motion was—

"This Council resolves that the salary of each Minister in the Punjab shall be Rs. 2,500 per month from the next financial year."

Since which two amendments have been moved which I now propose to put one by one.

Amendment moved—

"That for the words and figures 'Rs. 2,500' the words and figures 'Rs. 3,333-5-4' be substituted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : Amendment moved—

"That for the words and figures 'Rs. 2,500' in the second line of the motion the words and figures 'Rs. 4,000' be substituted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The Council divided : Ayes 10 ; Noes 56.

AYES.

Mr. E. Maya Das.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Mr. P. Mukerji.
Lala Chetan Anand.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Chaudhri Nazir Husain.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah.
Mian Nurullah.
Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan.
Pir Akbar Ali.

NOES.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Gill.
Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave.
Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Janmeja Singh.
Mr. P. Marsden.
Sir George Anderson.
Mr. F. H. Puckle.
Mr. L. B. Holland.
Mr. J. B. G. Smith.
Mr. J. W. Hearn.
The Honourable Sir Henry Craik.
The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.
Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl Ilahi.
Mr. S. L. Sale.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri.
Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.
Lala Nihal Chand, Aggarwal.
Thakur Pancham Chand.
Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.
Chaudhri Shah Muhammad.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan.
Lala Gopal Das.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Lala Bhagat Ram.
Chaudhri Bansi Lal.
Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.
Malak Muhammad Din.
Honorary Lieutenant Khan Sahib Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Khan Sahib Makhdum Shaikh Muhammad Hasan.
Khan Haibat Khan, Daha.
Sayad Mubarak Ali Shah.
Khawaja Muhammad Eusoof.
Chaudhri Fakir Husain Khan.
Mian Noor Ahmad Khan.
Chaudhri Riasat Ali.
Khan Sahib Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan.
Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani.
Rai Jagdev Khan, Kharal.
Maulvi Imam-ud-Din.
Mr. Din Muhammad.
Shaikh Abdul Ghani.
Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Sardar Mohan Singh.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh.
Sardar Sampuran Singh.
Honorary Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh.
Sardar Bishan Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sheo Narain Singh.
2nd-Lieutenant Sardar Ram Singh.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That this Council resolves that the salary of each Minister in the Punjab shall be Rs. 2,500 per month from the next financial year."

The motion was lost.

The Council then adjourned till 2 *p.m. on Monday,* 2*nd March* 1931.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, 2nd March 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Cost of cultivation and seed.

***91. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Department, Punjab, has estimated that the average cost (cultivation and seed) of an acre of cotton is not less than Rs. 21-2-0 exclusive of land revenue and water rate ;

(b) if not, will the Government kindly state what is the cost of cultivation and seed in case of wheat, cotton, sugarcane and other important crops grown on the Lower Chenab, so that the officers giving remission may have something definite to go upon ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) No.

(b) It is not possible to give an estimate of the cost of cultivation of any crop which would be generally applicable either in area or time.

Compensation to zamindars of Kangra for crops and trees.

***92. Thakur Pancham Chand :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the zamindars of Kangra district have not so far been paid the compensation for crops and trees, cut in the year 1926, during survey of Kangra Valley Railway ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps does Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) Government will address the Railway authorities again and press them for an early settlement of these claims for compensation.

Kangra Valley Railway.

***93. Thakur Pancham Chand :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware that stones and sand were removed by the Railway Department from the shamilat land, during the construction of the Kangra Valley Railway ;

[Thakur Pancham Chand.]

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a sum to the amount of Rs. 24,000 was due as royalty to the zamindars and nothing was paid ;

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Government have been advised by the Agent, North-Western Railway, as follows :—

(*a*) the stones and sand alluded to were removed by the contractors working on the construction of the Kangra Valley Railway and not by the Railway authorities ;

(*b*) the Railway is not in a position to verify the amount, if any, due to the zamindars from the contractors on account of royalty ;

(*c*) it is understood that the matter is being dealt with by the Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, direct with the contractors.

COMPENSATION FOR RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

***94. Thakur Pancham Chand :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the house of a zamindar in village Jalari, tahsil Kangra, Kangra district, was burnt from the sparks emerged from the locomotive engine of Kangra Valley Railway ?

(*b*) Did the zamindars apply for compensation and the Railway authorities refuse to listen ?

(*c*) What steps does Government intend to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Government has been advised by the Agent, North-Western Railway, as follows :—

(*a*) a house was burnt down in the village named but the owner of the house was not a zamindar.

(*b*) and (*c*) the owner applied for compensation but the claim was repudiated as the fire was not due to any negligence on the part of the Railway.

MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENQUIRY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

***95. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action has been taken on the recommendations of the Report of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Enquiry Committee ;

(*b*) when is the scheme likely to be completed and when would the current be available to the public ;

(*c*) what will be the total expenditure on this scheme ;

(*d*) what is the present strength of the engineers on the works and how many of them are Indians ;

(e) whether any engineers have been recruited since the report of the Enquiry Committee was published and if so, how many of them are Indians?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (a) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the Resolution published in the *Punjab Government Gazette* as No. 155-W.(E.)S., dated the 22nd July 1930, a copy of which has been placed on the table.

(b) and (c) As at present advised, the dates and figure of expenditure forecasted by the Enquiry Committee in paragraph 50 of their Report are regarded as being the most reliable.

(d) The present strength of the engineers on the works is 30 of whom 15 are Indians.

(e) Eleven Engineers have been recruited since the Enquiry Committee Report and 7 of these are Indians.

RESOLUTION.

Proceedings of the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) in the Electricity Department, No. 155 W. (E.) S., dated Simla E., the 22nd July 1930.

READ—

The report of the Committee of Inquiry into the progress of the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme, 1930.

The summary of the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the progress of the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme, appointed in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Punjab Legislative Council on 30th July 1929, was published for general information in the *Punjab Government Gazette* of April 18th 1930.

The Committee's recommendations have since received the most anxious consideration of Government.

2. Accepting the Committee's view that it would be a short-sighted policy to restrict the ultimate capacity of the plant, Government have decided to instal the four generating sets contemplated by the project in the power house at Shanan. In view, however, of the deficit foreshadowed by the Committee in paragraph 92 of their report, Government have carefully examined (in consultation with the Chief Engineer) the possibility of reducing the figure of Rs. 120 lakhs quoted therein, by postponing the construction of one or more of the branch lines of the transmission system. Investigation in this direction has led, however, to the conclusion that at the stage of construction now reached and considering the commitments entered into, any postponement would be economically unsound. It has, therefore, been decided to complete the scheme as designed, including the 132 KV. trunk transmission line to Lahore and the branch lines to Ludhiana, to Lyallpur and to Kasur and Ferozepore.

3. With reference to the Committee's estimate of the time within which the project is likely to be completed, Government recognise with the Committee that the rate of progress on the tunnel, through which the Uhl River is to be diverted to the power station at Shanan (Jogindar Nagar), is the determining factor in the date of completion of the scheme, and with a view to expediting progress on this work, the four European foremen recommended by the Committee have been recruited as well as a tunnel engineer, who will take charge of the north heading.

4. Government are satisfied that arrangements for the collection of aggregate and other materials for the tunnel lining, the pipe lines anchors and the power house are at present adequate, and progress in this direction will be carefully watched. The Chief Engineer's special attention has also been drawn to the suggestions of the technical members of the Inquiry Committee in connection with the final designs for the river works in the Uhl Valley, and in this connection the Chief Engineer has recently visited various canal headworks in the United Provinces. Automatic gauge recorders have been ordered from England with a view to the collection of more precise data as to the river discharges.

5. The Committee in paragraph 23 of their report have also laid stress on the importance of completion of certain designs. It was found impracticable to complete these within the period estimated by the Committee's technical advisers and before the Royal Engineer Officer referred to by the Committee had to leave for England. To help in completing the designs, however, a senior Assistant Engineer of the Buildings and Roads Branch with special qualifications has been transferred to the Hydro-Electric Branch.

[Hon. Dr. Gokul Chand Narang.]

6. The transfer to the Hydro-Electric Branch of two Assistant Executive Engineers from the permanent branches of the Public Works Department recommended by the Committee for the construction of the power house and the pipe line anchors has not hitherto been found practicable by Government. The only officers of this rank in the Buildings and Roads Branch are already holding charges of higher status than those vacant in the Hydro-Electric Project, while in the Irrigation Branch all available officers have been required for making good the damage caused by the disastrous floods of last year. The Irrigation Branch has however, recently lent a senior Executive Engineer to the Hydro-Electric Branch to ease the situation in regard to leave vacancies.

7. In paragraphs 108—114 of their report, the Committee referred to the organization of the Hydro-Electric Branch. In this connection with a view to enabling the Chief Engineer to devote all his time to the completion of such designs as still remain and to supervising the construction, and also with a view to greater efficiency in the handling of matters which arise on the commercial side of the project, Government have decided to terminate the existing arrangements, under which the Chief Engineer and Secretary, Buildings and Roads Branch, has also been Secretary for the Hydro-Electric Branch, and to create a separate post of Secretary, Electricity and Commercial Manager for the Project. Minor changes in organization which arise from this decision are under consideration.

8. The Committee's recommendation that at the stage now reached a separate circle for design work was unnecessary has been accepted. A post of Superintending Engineer has been abolished, and the design work is now being carried on in the technical section of the Chief Engineer's headquarters office.

9. In filling vacancies which have occurred in the establishment, the Ministry has throughout adhered to the policy recommended by the Committee that preference should be shown to Indians, due regards being paid to efficiency.

10. Detailed investigations preliminary to the fixation of tarriffs are at present in progress, and the possibility of supplying power for lift irrigation at a rate which would prove attractive to cultivators and remunerative to the project is under examination, but Government recognize with the Committee that before any large scale project for lift irrigation can be embarked on, the experiment suggested in paragraph 128 of the Committee's report must be made.

With reference to paragraph 131 of the Committee's report, a small experiment as to the effect on land impregnated with alkaline salts of lowering the water table and washing out the salts by water pumped from the sub-soil is already under contemplation at the Chakanwali Farm under the Irrigation Branch.

The thanks of the Local Government (Ministry of Agriculture) are due to Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, K.C.S.I., M.A., LL.B., for having presided over the Committee of Inquiry, to the gentlemen who served on the Committee, including the Secretary, Mr. B. M. Staig, I.C.S., and to the Governments of Madras and the United Provinces for having lent respectively the services of Major H. G. Howard, M.C., Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Development, Madras, and Mr. W. L. Stampe, I.S.E., at the time Superintending Engineer, Hydro-Electric Circle, Rurki.

CIVIL HOSPITAL SITE, LUDHIANA.

*96. **Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal:** Will the Honourable the Minister for Eduation be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a Civil Hospital is going to be built at Ludhiana on the grounds where Dosehra and other fairs are held every year and which is also used as a playground;

(*b*) whether any representation against this proposal has been received from the residents of Ludhiana and if so, what action has been taken on it?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: (*a*) No site has been finally selected. The land referred to by the honourable member was one of the possible sites.

(*b*) Yes, a representation was received and Government are exploring possibilities of building the hospital on other land if available and found suitable.

CHET CHAUDAS CATTLE FAIR.

***97. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a memorial by the residents of Ludhiana was submitted to the Local Government through the Deputy Commissioner on 21st December 1929, requesting that the cattle fair of Chet Chaudas be prohibited ;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken on that ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) No such memorial is traceable.

(*b*) Does not arise.

CIVIL JUSTICE COMMITTEE.

***98. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state whether a committee called the Civil Justice Committee was appointed and had submitted its report in 1924-25 ;

(*b*) If the reply to the above is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on that ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) To collect complete information in regard to all the recommendations would involve very great labour which will hardly be commensurate with the advantage to be gained. If the honourable member will indicate the particular recommendation on which he wants information, it will be supplied to him.

REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.

***99. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state what action has been taken in the Punjab on the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The action taken on the Report by this and other provinces is described in detail in annual statements published by the Government of India. A copy of the latest statement is laid on the table.[1]

USE OF FORCE BY POLICE.

***100. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what districts in the Punjab since April 1930 the police has had occasion to use force and the dates on which it was done to disperse—

(*i*) meetings organised by the Congress,

(*ii*) public meetings not organised by the Congress, and

(*iii*) other crowds ?

[1]Kept in the Library.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It is regretted that the information is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

KHARABA INSPECTION IN SUTLEJ VALLEY CANAL.

***101. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that *kharaba* inspection in the Sutlej Valley Canal is not done in time by the officials concerned ;

(*b*) if so, what steps Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether *kharaba* inspection in the Sutlej Valley Canal is done in time or not?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No, the answer has been given after making the necessary enquiries.

AGRICULTURISTS.

***102. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware of the fact that statutory agriculturists in the Punjab and especially the Jats of Rohtak district have started money-lending business, and are charging an exhorbitant interest ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the big agriculturists all over the province are buying up the lands of small agriculturists for a low price in lieu of the repayment of debts due by them ;

(*c*) if so, will Government please state what steps it proposes to take to protect the small agriculturists from the rapacious big agriculturists ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The attention of Government was first drawn to the increase of money lending amongst agriculturists in the annual Land Administration Report for 1880-81. Government has no reason to believe that these charge more exorbitant rate of interest than other money-lenders;

(*b*) No. A careful inquiry has shown that there is no evidence of this all over the province, but it may be true of the South-Western districts to some extent.

(*c*) A further more detailed inquiry is being conducted in the South-Western districts.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Clause (*c*) is not fully anwered, Sir. May I ask what steps Government propose to take to protect the small agriculturists from the big agriculturists.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : That question would arise only when the enquiry which has now been instituted shows that the situation is as the honourable member points out.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN DISTRICT BOARDS.

***103. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in some district boards in the province certain communities do not get representation in proportion to their population and voting strength ;

(*b*) whether Government have considered the desirability of nominating to such district boards as many members of the other communities as will bring their representation in the district board in proportion to their population and voting strength ;

(*c*) if so, with what results ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Yes. Steps are, however, already being taken to make such arrangements as will insure an adequate representation to all the different communities.

(*b*) Yes, and so far as circumstances permit Government are guided by this principle in making nominations.

(*c*) Has been answered in (*b*).

HAISIYAT TAX.

***104. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the *haisiyat* tax, wherever it is imposed, is causing great hardship to artisans, menials and petty shopkeepers.

(*b*) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to remove this grievance ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) As the *haisiyat* tax is carefully graduated varying from Rs. 4 on incomes over Rs. 400 per annum to Rs. 500, on those of over Rs. 50,000, it is not considered likely that great hardship is being caused to artizans, menials and petty shopkeepers in cases where it is assessed with proper care and in accordance with the specimen directions issued by Government under the District Boards Act.

(*d*) As complaints are frequently received Government are prepared to consider any reasonable suggestions for improving the system of assessment and realization.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Is it a fact that at present the local members of the district board assess *haisiyat* tax?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : I should like to have notice of the question.

SUPERVISORS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

*105. **Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of Muslim and non-Muslim candidates for the post of supervisorship in the Ambala division enlisted by the present Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Government understands that no candidates are enlisted for the post of supervisorship, and that all appointments to the post of Sub-Inspector, to which the question presumably refers, are made by the Punjab Co-operative Union. As this is a non-official body, the information asked for is not available.

ELECTION RULES, AMBALA CANTONMENT BOARD.

*106. **Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government published Draft Election rules for the Ambala Cantonment Board in January 1930 re-shuffling the wards ;

(*b*) whether elections to be held in November 1930 were postponed to July and August 1931 as the revision of the wards was not finally settled ;

(*c*) whether the final notification of the revision of wards has now been published in the *Punjab Gazette*, dated the 24th January 1931 ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the revision of wards now made consists only of fusion of four one-member wards into two-member wards and does not necessitate any preparation of fresh electoral rolls by the Ambala Cantonment authority ;

(*e*) if so, whether Government intend to hold the elections at a date earlier than the one already fixed ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) It is a fact that, in the revision of the wards now made, four wards previously returning one member each have been combined into two wards returning two members each. It is not a fact that the preparation of a fresh electoral roll was unnecessary ; under rule 8 (*ii*) of the Cantonment Electoral Rules the registers of electors are to be revised annually, but the revision could not be carried out in 1930 as the wards had not been defined.

(*e*) Owing to the fact that the electoral registers have been completed at a date earlier than was anticipated, the elections have now been advanced to such dates between the 1st June and 1st July as the Cantonment authority may determine.

WATER SUPPLY IN CANAL COLONIES.

*107. **Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state whether he is aware—

(*a*) (*i*) that in some tracts of canal colonies where well water is brackish the villagers have dug *kachcha* tanks for storing canal water for domestic purposes ;

(*ii*) that the Canal Department does not supply water for the aforesaid tanks, and that the same is taken to the said tanks from the nearest watercourse, much against the will of the person in whose *wari* it is taken;

(*iii*) that in the above manner villagers are unable to get and store in tanks a sufficient quantity of water, and that during long canal closures they have to drink dirty and unhealthy water of these tanks, and very often have to fetch water from long distances;

(*iv*) that in the above referred to tracts, the Canal Department supplies no water for building houses, planting and watering trees and combating with the dust nuisance, which affects the colonists' health most seriously;

(*v*) that in many chaks no houses have been built yet for want of water, nor have any trees been planted;

(*vi*) that the Canal Department supplies no water for the *charagah* land adjoining the *abadi* areas in the various colonies;

(*vii*) that the so-called *charagah* land is practically an ocean of dust which seriously affects the health of the children who have to use it as their playground;

(*b*) whether the Government has any objection to supply water specifically for the requirements of the village and the *charagah* and charge *abiana* for the same?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) The honourable member is referred to Rule 10 under the Canal Act in accordance with which water is supplied for domestic purposes so far as it is available.

(*iv*) and (*v*) Water can always be taken when available for these miscellaneous purposes in accordance with the sanctioned schedule of miscellaneous rates for each canal.

(*vi*) No.

(*vii*) This view of the *charagah*, much of which is often at a considerable distance from the *abadi* and therefore inaccessible to children, has not been brought to the notice of Government.

(*b*) The question of supplying water to *charagah*, when water is plentiful, *i.e.*, in the monsoon season, has been discussed from time to time with village communities. Generally speaking, they have been opposed to the idea and have urged that any water available should be applied to areas under crops or under preparation for sowing the next crop.

WATER SUPPLY IN CANALS.

***108. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) (*i*) the number of days for which the Punjab Government has authorised the Canal Department to close each of the various canals, their branches and minors, out of 365 days of a year;

[Rai Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

(*ii*) the number of days for which each canal, its branches and minors in the Punjab remained closed from the 1st of October 1930 up to the date on which this question is answered ;

(*iii*) the dates on which each of the canals, its branches and minors gave (*i*) full supply, (*ii*) less than full supply ;

(*b*) whether he is aware that in the canal-irrigated areas the *rabi* crops have not been watered this year even once ;

(*c*) what steps, if any, Government intends to take to meet the loss sustained by the zamindars ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) (*i*) The honourable member's attention is invited to section 32 (*a*) of the Canal Act (No. VIII of 1873) and to rules 15, 15 (*a*), 17 and 19 thereunder, which define the powers of a Divisional Canal Officer in regard to the stoppage of supply of water to any watercourse or to any person.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) The labour involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with the result achieved.

(*b*) The reply is in the negative.

(*c*) Does not arise.

IRRIGATION CAPACITY OF CANALS.

***109. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) what volume of water each canal, in the Punjab, before its excavation, was estimated to supply, and how much has been its actual supply ;

(*b*) how much area has each canal irrigated every year since it has begun to run ;

(*c*) by how many acres in the case of each canal has the irrigation been extended from year to year, and what is the percentage of corresponding reduction in the supply of water to the existing holders of lands ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) and (*b*) The honourable member is referred to the printed Administration Reports with Statistical Statements and Accounts of the Canal Department which give the information required.

(*c*) The information required can be derived from the above records by comparing the figures from year to year.

WATER SUPPLY IN CANALS.

***110. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable the Member for Revenue please state whether he is aware—

(*a*) that the Canal Department does not publish, for the information of the zamindars, the dates on which the various canals, their branches and minors are to be opened or closed, nor do they take any effective steps to inform the agriculturists concerned

when the particular branch or minor from which they receive water will begin to flow or stop ;

(b) that in the absence of any information as to the dates of opening and closing of various canals, their branches and minors (i) the zamindars are taken by surprise, (ii) they are unprepared to receive and utilise the water, and (iii) a large quantity of water is wasted ;

(c) what steps, if any, Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) The Canal Department notifies Main and Branch Canal closures in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 13·12 of the Revenue Manual and the departmental orders recently issued on the subject. A copy of both is placed on the table. It is not practicable to notify closures of minors in advance.

(b) This is not admitted; from the information supplied zamindars ought to, and do, know when to expect water and approximately for how many days.

(c) Does not arise.

Copy of letter from H. F. ASHTON, Esq., Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works, Punjab, to all Superintending Engineers, Southern and Construction Administrations, No. 17/26-R. I., dated the 6th January 1931.

I HAVE the honour to state that it has been decided that copies of the Provisional Programme of Branch supplies and closures for *rabi* should be supplied to the following :—

(a) One to each village in the division for the Senior Lambardar.

(b) One to each Patwari.

(c) One to each Zilladar.

(d) One to each Canal Subordinate.

(e) One to each Remount Officer or owner of a large farm.

(f) One to each Agricultural Farm.

(g) One to each Divisional Director of Agriculture.

(h) Six for the Deputy Commissioner, Revenue Assistant and other Civil Officers.

(i) Six (in English) to the Divisional Superintendent, North-Western Railway.

2. Copies of the provisional programme should be got printed in future and distributed as above.

Extract from the Revenue Manual.

Annual closures on perennial canals.

13.12. The following instructions relating to annual closures on perennial canals are issued for guidance :—

I. B. Circular No. 05-I., dated 27th August 1894.

(a) A closure, for the purpose of annual repairs or special closure works, on the three permanent canals noted in the margin, should ordinarily be contemplated, weather permitting, from the 1st January.

(1) Western Jumna.
(2) Sirhind.
(3) Upper Bari Doab.

(b) A notice of closure in one of the appended forms, for each of the canals, noted in the margin of rule (a) on prepage, will be due from the Superintending Engineer in the Chief Engineer's office not later than the 1st November so that it may be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette* one full month before the proposed date of closure. In submitting the notice, the Superintending Engineer should state briefly the special closure works, if any, which it is proposed to undertake in addition to the ordinary inspections and repairs of the works. The period of closure to be notified should ordinarily be one month ; but if a longer closure is desirable, the reasons for proposing it should be fully stated.

[Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

(c) As regards the canals named in the margin, the annual closure notifications need not issue as a matter of course. These canals have to be closed periodically in any case because of the necessity of having rotational closures, and, as regards these, notices are already published abroad informing all concerned of the probable dates on which the canals will be closed. It may be necessary on occasions to close one of these canals for a whole month or more for the purpose of executing some extremely urgent and important work which cannot be carried out during a rotational closure. On such occasions a notification should be submitted so that it may be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette* one full month before the proposed date of closure.

Lower Chenab.
Lower Jhelum.
Upper Chenab.
Upper Jhelum.
Lower Bari Doab.
Sutlej Valley Project Canals.

(d) A canal must not be closed before the date specified in the notice, except in case of emergency, such as a sudden and complete cessation of the demand after a heavy and general rainfall. The closure may take place at any date subsequent to that specified in the notice, if owing to a failure of rain, the demand is too strong to justify a closure on the date proposed; but, in the case of the Western Jumna and Sirhind, which are navigation canals, the closure must not, without a second notification, be prolonged beyond the period originally notified, whatever the actual date of closure.

(e) When forwarding a closure notice to the Chief Engineer the Superintending Engineer will, at the same time, intimate to all the Canal Divisional Officers that a closure is proposed from the date specified in the notice, and will issue such special instructions as may be necessary regarding the Works to be undertaken during the closure.

2. Divisional and Sub-Divisional Officers will be supplied by Superintending Engineers with printed copies of rules showing in detail the measures to be taken in anticipation of and during the annual closure of the canal, concerned. They will be held responsible that those rules are fully acted up to as soon as notice of a closure is given.

3. Emergent closures, as distinct from the annual closures for repairs, may be made at any time on any canal, under the authority of the Superintending Engineer, when this can be obtained, or under the orders of the officer responsible for the regulation at the head of the canal in all cases of sudden emergency, such as heavy floods in the river, serious accident to the canal banks or works, or a complete cessation of the demand. In all cases, the Superintending Engineer should, however, be informed by telegram directly a canal is closed or re-opened. Emergent closures of the Western Jumna and Sirhind Canals for longer periods than three days must be reported to the Chief Engineer direct by the Officer-in-charge of the Head Works Division for notification in the *Punjab Government Gazette*. The report should simply state the dates of closure and re-opening.

4. The periods of all canal closures should be noted in the "Remarks" column of the monthly statement of Irrigation Operations, and a detailed statement of all the periods during which a canal was closed throughout the year will be invariably given in the Annual Administration Report.

Form of closure notice.

I.—For Western Jumna and Sirhind Canals only :—

It is hereby notified, under Rule 63 of the Rules under Act VIII of 1873, applicable to the
Western Jumna / Sirhind ———— Canal, that, weather permitting, the Western Jumna / Sirhind ———— Canal will be closed for annual repairs on the 1st January 19   for one month, or such longer or shorter period as may be found practicable and desirable, having regard to the state of the weather and of the crops.

II.—For all other canals :—

Weather permitting, the ———————— Canal will be closed for annual repairs on or after ———————— for one month, or such longer or shorter period as may be found practicable and desirable, having regard to the state of the weather and of the crops.

PANJOTRA TO LAMBARDARS.

***111. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(a) in which districts of the Punjab the lambardars are allowed, and in which districts they are not allowed, *panjotra* on the

malikana which they collect on behalf of Government and deposit into the treasury ;

(*b*) whether *panjotra* on *malikana* was stopped in any district, and if so, by whom and under what law ;

(*c*) under what law does the Government require a lambardar to collect and deposit *malikana* without getting any *panjotra* on it ;

(*d*) whether a lambardar who may refuse to collect *malikana* without payment of *panjotra* is liable to be punished, and, if so, under what law ;

(*e*) if the revenue, *abiana* or *malikana* is lost by or stolen from a lambardar, under what law can he be called upon to make good the loss and whether his liability remains unaffected whether he is or is not entitled to get *panjotra* ;

(*f*) what steps, if any, Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) *Panjotra* is allowed on *malikana* in no district.

(*b*) It was never stopped, as it was never given.

(*c*) Under Land Revenue Rule 20 (*i*).

(*d*) Yes, under that rule and rule 25 (*i*).

(*e*) It depends on the actual circumstances of each case.

(*f*) None.

BHAKRA DAM PROJECT.

***112. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** (*a*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state whether the two Engineers, the Superintending Engineers of the Punjab Government and of the Bombay Government, appointed to enquire into the effect of the Bhakra dam withdrawals of water from the river Sutlej upon the water surface levels of the Indus at the heads of the Sind Inundation Canals from the Sind boundary to Sukkur have submitted their report ?

(*b*) If so, will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly place a copy of the report on the table for the information of the House ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The Report is in the press, and a copy will be placed on the table of the House when available.

BHAKRA DAM PROJECT.

***113. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether the work of rectangulation survey of the tract to be irrigated by the Bhakra dam project has been continued during the current year by the Government of India, Survey Department ; if so, when will this work be completed ;

[Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.]

(*b*) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken to carry into effect the resolution unanimously passed in the Punjab Legislative Council about the said project on the 28th February, 1929 ;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) be in the affirmative, when is the Government going to take in hand the work of the preparation of the scheme of the Bhakra Dam Project for submission to the Government of India and the Secretary of State for sanction ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes: it was originally estimated that the survey would be completed in 5 years, but the period will be necessarily prolonged on account of the present financial stringency.

(*b*) No : earnest and vigorous efforts have, and are, being made to proceed with the project.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Could the Honourable Member give us an idea when the project will be completed ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I am afraid I am not in a position to do that.

INDEBTEDNESS OF ZAMINDARS OF DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

***114. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) the total indebtedness of the zamindars of Dera Ghazi Khan district, if it has been computed ;

(*b*) the total debt due by the said zamindars to the co-operative societies ;

(*c*) the total debt due by them to local *sahukars* ;

(*d*) the aggregate amount of various kinds of *taqavi* loans due by them to the Government ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Government has no reliable information ; but the honourable member is referred to the Settlement Report and Mr. Darling's book "The Punjab Peasant in prosperity and debt," in which a rough estimate of the debts has been attempted.

(*b*) No separate figures for zamindars are available.

(*c*) Government has no information.

(*d*) The aggregate amount of *taqavi* loans due by zamindars to Government up to the end of September, 1930, were as below :—

Under Land Improvement Loans Act XIX of 1883—	Under Agriculturists Loans Act XII of 1884—
Rs. 1,90,808	Rs. 5,32,614

LAND REVENUE, DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

***115. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state the total amount of annual land revenue demand assessed in the Dera Ghazi Khan district ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The annual land revenue for the Dera Ghazi Khan district is partly fixed and partly fluctuating. The fixed rent roll for the year ending on September 30th last was Rs. 2,98,345 and the fluctuating demand for the same year Rs. 1,60,221. The latter of course varies from year to year.

AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION IN THE DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

***116. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state whether it is a fact that when the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) visited Dera Ghazi Khan last, the zamindars made a representation to him that owing to the unprecedented fall in the prices of agricultural produce, defective irrigation system, and several other causes they were unable to pay the land revenue demand ?

(*b*) Did the Financial Commissioner bring this to the notice of the Government, and, if so, what steps does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, the representation has been referred to the Commissioner for report, which is awaited.

WOOL INDUSTRY IN DERA GHAZI KHAN.

***117. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Dera Ghazi Khan is a market for raw wool imported from the neighbouring *ilaqa* of Baluchistan ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the Government is prepared to start or encourage some sort of wool industry in Dera Ghazi Khan ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government would be very willing to consider what assistance it could give to any industrialist who proposes to start a wool industry in Dera Ghazi Khan, if approached in the matter.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS.

***118. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state the ordinary period for which the following officers can remain attached to a district :—

(1) Extra Assistant Commissioners ;

(2) Assistant Surgeons ;

(3) Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police ;

(4) Executive Engineers and Sub-Divisional Officers (Canals) ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The only rule on the subject of the tenure of posts by the officers mentioned is one which limits the charge of a hospital or dispensary by a Civil Assistant Surgeon to a period of 5 years. In practice Extra Assistant Commissioners and Civil Assistant Surgeons are usually transferred after a period of three years. No period is prescribed in the case of the other officers mentioned.

BRIDGE OVER CANALS ON MULTAN-PESHIN ROAD.

***119. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state if there are special reasons for not constructing pacca bridges over the two canals which cross the Multan-Peshin Road between Qureshi and Ghazi Ghat ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : When funds are available, the programme of bridge construction will again be considered and the claims of these two places will receive consideration.

GHAZI GHAT-DRAHMAN SECTION OF THE PESHIN-MULTAN ROAD.

***120. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Ghazi Ghat-Drahman Section of the Peshin-Multan Road is in an extremely bad condition this year owing to the spreading of iron nets instead of reed grass ;

(*b*) the total expenditure incurred on the maintenance of this section of the said road during each of the last ten years and the total expenditure up to date this year ;

(*c*) how much the iron nets spread on this section of the said road have cost ;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware that hand-pumps have been fixed at short distances for the purpose of drawing water to be sprinkled on this section of the road for suppressing dust ;

(*e*) what the total cost up to date of this scheme of suppressing dust has been and whether it suppresses dust at all ;

(*f*) whether Government is aware that the introduction of iron nets on this section of the road has deprived the local labourers of work which they used to get before ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) The answer is in the negative. It is considered that the wire netting used is greatly superior to the grass surface which was in position last year and is more economical in view of the fact that the grass needs constant replacement.

(*b*) *Year.*			*Cost of maintenance.*
			Rs.
(1) 1922-23	..	..	98,327
(2) 1923-24	..	..	97,600
(3) 1924-25	..	..	95,000

Year.		*Cost of maintenance.*
		Rs.
(4) 1925-26	.. ..	89,600
(5) 1926-27	.. ..	81,500
(6) 1927-28	.. ..	80,000
(7) 1928-29	.. ..	92,500
(8) 1929-30	.. ..	84,700
(9) 1930-31 upto 31st January 1930		56,600 anticipated total for year 68,000.

(10) Due to wire netting being now available the estimated cost for 1931-32 will be 45,000.

(*c*) The cost of manufacture including laying and maintenance was Rs. 16,350. It is expected that it will have a ten year life.

(*d*) Yes, 10 hand pumps have been fixed for the purpose of consolidating the clay to make a bed for the wire. They were never intended for suppressing dust.

(*e*) The cost of the pumps is Rs. 7-8-0 each. The answer to the latter part of the question does not apply.

(*f*) The answer is in the negative.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Re EXCESSES COMMITTED ON DEPRESSED CLASSES DURING CENSUS OPERATIONS.

Mr. M. A. Ghani [Nominated Non-official]: Sir, I ask for leave to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the excesses perpetrated by certain communities on the depressed classes of the Punjab in connection with the census operations and of which no notice has yet been taken.

Mr. President : The honourable member asks for leave to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the excesses perpetrated by certain communities on the depressed classes of the Punjab in connection with the census operations and of which no notice has yet been taken. Has the honourable member the leave of the council to move the adjournment ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member] : I have only just now received a copy of the adjournment motion which the honourable member representing labour interest, desires to move, and I must confess that I have not been able to grasp its meaning. So far as the last portion of the last sentence of the motion is concerned namely " of which no notice has yet been taken," I can assure the honourable member that Government has received no complaints and has no information whatever about this matter. If there had been any such excesses as alleged by the honourable member, Government would have surely heard about them

[Hon. Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

by now, and the press would have raised a hue and cry. As regards the urgency of the matter, I might point out, that enumeration is now over and it is not possible to take any action with regard to the census itself. But if the honourable member has reasonable grounds to believe that excesses were perpetrated by certain communities and if instances are brought to the notice of Government later, it would look into them, but the motion as it stands is either premature at the present moment, or too late.

Mr. M. A. Ghani [Nominated, Non-Official]: So far as the question of excesses is concerned, different articles have appeared in different papers on this point and I think deputations after deputations have been waiting upon the Superintendent of Census drawing his attention to the excesses committed but no notice has been taken by Government or by the Census Superintendent. So I think this motion is quite in order and it is quite clear.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: May I draw your attention to the fact that the honourable member wants to discuss a matter which concerns the central Government? Census operations is not a provincial subject. But so far as excesses are concerned I have told him that we have no information whatever on the subject and if we do receive any complaints they will be looked into.

Mr. President: May I take it then that the Government opposes the motion?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Yes because it would mean a sheer waste of the time of the House.

Mr. President: What has the honourable member to say as to urgency?

Mr. M. A. Ghani: The question of urgency arises in this way that enumeration has been taken. It was on the 26th of last month that enumeration was taken. If the question of excesses is not discussed in this House and Government is not requested that an enquiry ought to be made into those excesses I do not think that any—

Mr. President: The Leader of the House has stated on behalf of Government that he will be glad to look into any excesses that are brought to his notice. What further object has the honourable member in view? Does he want to criticise the action of Government and if so with what object?

Mr. M. A. Ghani: If Government is willing to make an enquiry into those excesses and to request the Government of India to correct the census returns—

Mr. President: The provincial Government is concerned only with the alleged excesses committed against certain classes of people. The Punjab Government, so far as I am aware, is not concerned with the correction or alteration of the census figures. That is a central subject and the local Government has nothing to do with it.

Mr. M. A. Ghani: I quite realise that, but the Punjab Government can recommend to the Government of India and say that they have received so many complaints—

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : We have received no complaints.

Chaudhri Bansi Lal [*Urdu*] : The honourable mover of the motion is not our representative. He interferes in our affairs without being called upon to do so. I want to make this point clear.

Mr. President : Order, order.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : He is disclaiming Mr. M. A. Ghani.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : If that is the attitude of Government, then I do not propose to move my adjournment motion.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member): Before I commence my observations on the subject of provincial finances, I think it will be in accord with the general feeling of the House if I say a word in regard to my predecessor, Sir Alexander Stow, as but for his sudden illness shortly after the presentation of the budget last year, it would have been his task and not mine to address the House to-day. Sir Alexander Stow lived and served in India for over 33 years, and during the course of his service held with distinction the appointments of Settlement Officer of Karnal, Settlement Commissioner in Kashmir, Commissioner of a division in the Punjab and Chief Commissioner of Delhi, and finally was appointed a Member of the Punjab Executive Council in October 1928. He held the Home and Finance portfolios in this Government for a period of about 18 months, and it was entirely due to his single-minded devotion to duty to the exclusion of other interests that his health broke down suddenly and seriously in April last year. For many months he had placed himself under a burden of work which was greater than his strength could meet, and it was a genuine tragedy when the machine, which had been so hardly tried, gave out. At one time, the state of his health was so serious that his life was in grave danger, and it was with great relief that his friends heard that he had arrived safely in England and his health showed some signs of improvement. The sudden stoppage of a career so distinguished will, I am confident, be regretted by all his friends in this House where his sterling character and genial temperament had earned the respect and affection of all members.

I would also like to mention the admirable work done as Finance Secretary by Mr. Penny, who held charge of that onerous appointment throughout three critical and anxious years. During that period the Punjab Government and this House were fortunate in having so vigilant a guardian of their finances and one so unremitting in his solicitude for the financial health of the province. One of the most important duties of the Financial Secretary is to scrutinize all proposals for expenditure emanating from the different departments of Government. This task Mr. Penny discharged with meticulous care, but always with fair-minded discrimination. In the other part of his task, which includes the preparation of the annual budget estimates and their explanatory memoranda, this House has also reason to be grateful for his full and lucid expositions.

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Mr. Penny in a word proved himself an admirable successor to his predecessors, Messrs. Emerson and Miles Irving. He himself will be a difficult Finance Secretary to follow, but I have no doubt that Mr. Puckle, the first fruits of whose labours the honourable members have in their hands to-day, will prove himself to be fully equal to the task.

I propose, Sir, on this occasion to follow the example set by my distinguished predecessor, the present Governor, in explaining for the benefit of honourable members who are new to this House the broad outlines of our system of accounts and the procedure observed in regard to the presentation of budgets. There are in the House a number of honourable members who have been members of previous Councils and whose criticism and advice have been of great assistance to Government in framing its financial proposals in the past. I trust that such members, whose presence I welcome, will forgive me if I dwell for a few minutes for the benefit of new members on subjects with which they themselves are already familiar.

To-day it is my task to present to the House the budget for the year commencing on the 1st of April 1931. Later on, at the end of this week two days are allotted for the general discussion of the budget and thereafter eight days are allotted for the voting of the various grants. The honourable members will thus have time to study the budget proposals after their introduction and before their discussion either in principle or in detail. In doing so they will derive, I think, very great assistance from the memorandum explaining the budget, which has been placed in their hands to-day. This memorandum has been prepared by Mr. Puckle, and I think I am justified in congratulating him on the great care and lucidity with which he has completed his task. The memorandum is divided into two parts. Part A gives a general description of the system of Government accounts and explains the way in which they are divided into different classes,—the Revenue Account, the Capital Account, and so forth. It also describes the items included in the different accounts and the present position of each, and analyses the causes that have led to changes as compared with the corresponding accounts of the previous year. The second part of the memorandum goes into greater detail regarding the estimates of revenue and the demands for grants included in the detailed budget estimates. If any honourable member finds difficulty in regard to any of the figures presented in these detailed memoranda, Mr. Puckle will, before the voting of the grants, be glad to explain to him any figures if he cares to approach him on the subject.

I have one word to add regarding the order in which the demands will be presented to the Council. The original practice, when the provincial budget was first presented to the Reformed Council in 1921, was to discuss the demands in a sequence which followed the numerical sequence of the different heads of expenditure. This practice was followed for some years, with the result that certain heads of expenditure, which came early in the numerical sequence, received considerably fuller discussion and consideration in the Council, while other heads, possibly of greater importance, that came lower down in the list were either given scant time for discussion or were excluded from discussion altogether by the operation of the guillotine. Accordingly with effect from the budget for the year 1925-26 it was decided

to reverse the order in alternate years, that is, in every second year the discussion would begin with the demand that stands last in the numerical sequence of the budget heads and would proceed from the end backwards. That will be done this year. In the following year a start is made from the beginning. This practice ensures that over a period of two years the demands, wherever they come in the numerical sequence, have an equal chance of full examination and discussion.

I will now deal with the ordinary Revenue Account which is by far the most important part of the Government accounts. In part A of the Finance Secretary's memorandum it has been explained that in a good year we can count on an income of about 11 crores of rupees which in a bad year may fall by as much as half a crore or even more. The close of the financial year 1927-28 saw the province after several good years in a strong position; but with 1928-29 began a series of disastrous years. In that year there was a serious failure of the *rabi* harvest and partial failure of the cotton crop. In the next year, that is 1929-30, there were very extensive floods which caused not only a large drop in our revenue receipts, but also led to huge expenditure in repairs to canal headworks, embankments and roads. The current year, that is the year commencing on the 1st of April 1930, has seen not only a very general crop failure in parts of the south-eastern Punjab, but also a very serious fall in the prices of agricultural produce, on which the prosperity of the province so very largely depends, and a corresponding fall in the prices of other commodities. The fall in the price of agricultural produce has necessitated large remissions of revenue on cotton, rice and sugarcane in districts in which these crops are most largely grown, estimated to aggregate 28 lakhs of rupees. The general economic depression through which the Punjab, in common with other provinces and indeed with the whole world, is passing has led to a decline in receipts from Income Tax, Stamps, Excise and Forests. The result is that whereas in the budget estimates for the current year the receipts on the Revenue Account were expected to be 10 crores and 95 lakhs of rupees, the actual receipts, so far as they are known at present, will come to a sum 33 lakhs less than this figure. On the other side of the account, that is on the disbursement side, we had estimated an expenditure of 11 crores and 22 lakhs, but extra expenditure had to be incurred on repairing works damaged by floods, on measures to cope with famine conditions in Gurgaon and Hissar and a widespread pestilence of locusts, and also owing to the intensive campaign of civil disobedience on the administration of justice and on additional police. In spite of this extra expenditure, however, we have managed by rigorous economy and by measures of retrenchment, to which I shall refer later, to keep the expenditure of the year down to the figure of 11 crores and 22 lakhs estimated in the budget presented to the House at this time last year. Without the most careful economy the figure would have been at least 30 lakhs higher.

Thus the result of the year now drawing to a close is that disbursements on the Revenue Account have exceeded receipts by 60 lakhs of rupees. After deducting the opening balance of 13 lakhs we end the year with a deficit in the Revenue Account of 47 lakhs. I will explain later how this deficit is to be covered. This position is one that must cause concern to all interested in the financial stability of the province. We have gone

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through a cycle of three disastrous years beginning with 1928-29, which have been marked by successive failures of crops, by widespread and destructive floods, by a most serious fall in the value of almost all the raw materials which the province produces and by intensive political agitation, with the result that in the course of these three years, as is pointed out in the memorandum, our credit balance of 128 lakhs has been turned into a deficit of 47 lakhs.

I mentioned just now the famine conditions prevalent in the Hissar and Gurgaon districts and I may be allowed to digress for a moment to explain how much these conditions cost the province. The famine was due to successive failure of harvests beginning from the *kharif* crop of the year 1928. How complete these failures have been is shown by the figures for the Gurgaon district, which is the worst sufferer of the two districts affected. In Gurgaon two-thirds of the area sown in the *kharif* of 1928 failed. In the following *rabi* failure was three-fourths. In the *kharif* of 1929, two-thirds again failed. The area sown in the *rabi* of 1930 was less than half the normal, but even of this restricted area one-third failed. The result of these successive failures was the complete depletion of accumulated stores of grain and fodder, a situation which was difficult to relieve as neighbouring areas were also to a great extent depleted. The measures taken by Government to save the cattle of the two districts affected included the distribution of 2 lakhs of maunds of fodder and a concession in railway freights on fodder which cost Government Rs. 80,000. As regards the people themselves, test works were opened in both districts in November 1929, and later a number of famine works were opened which gradually increased to 18 in the Gurgaon district and 12 in the Hissar district. The daily average of persons who received relief in the two districts rose to over 58,000 in Gurgaon and 16,000 in Hissar. The situation improved with good rainfall in the months of July and August last, which enabled us gradually to close down the famine works. This was completed by the middle of August last in Hissar and by the beginning of November in Gurgaon. The scarcity operations have cost Government 5½ lakhs of rupees in Gurgaon and 2 lakhs of rupees in Hissar. In addition to this direct assistance, liberal advances of *taqavi* had been made in both districts to help the people to tide over this period of severe distress. In the two years, 1928-29 and 1929-30, Hissar received advances of over 4 lakhs of rupees under the Land Improvement Loans Act and nearly 10 lakhs of rupees under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. In Gurgaon the figure was about 4 lakhs of rupees under the former and 12½ lakhs of rupees under the latter Act. Suspensions and remissions of land revenue have also been given on a liberal scale. More than 5½ lakhs of rupees were suspended in Hissar in 1929-30. In Gurgaon nearly 10 lakhs of rupees were suspended for the two harvests, *kharif* 1928 and *rabi* 1929, representing considerably over fifty per cent. of the total demand in both harvests. One-and-a-half lakhs of the suspended revenue have also been remitted and I fear that further remissions may be necessary. The direct loss to provincial finance up-to-date on account of these famines can be put at roughly 10 lakhs of rupees, including land revenue remitted but not including land revenue under suspension and *taqavi* loans advanced.

I regret to have to add that only a few days ago I received information that the winter rains in both districts had almost completely failed and that we must be prepared for the re-establishment of scarcity conditions as a consequence of that failure.

To resume the main thread of my narrative, I have dealt hitherto with the Revenue Account for the current year and have shown that owing to adverse conditions it is closing with a deficit balance of 47 lakhs. I now turn to the Capital Account for the same period. When the budget for the current year was framed, we expected to incur capital expenditure amounting to 1,73 lakhs. Out of this total, 22 lakhs for Forests, Industrial Development and Civil Works were classified under the head "Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue", that is, this amount of 22 lakhs was intended to be met from Extraordinary Receipts. The balance of 1,51 lakhs for the great productive schemes, mainly the Sutlej Valley Project and the Hydro-Electric Scheme, and for the commutation of pensions was classified under "Capital Expenditure not charged to Revenue" and was to be financed by means of loans. We had further to provide a sum of 40 lakhs to finance *taqavi* advances and loans for other purposes out of the Provincial Loans Account, though we expected that this amount would be more than balanced by the recovery of 43 lakhs on account of previous advances from the same source. In order to finance the capital expenditure of 1,73 lakhs, it was proposed to take a loan of 1,50 lakhs and to meet the balance from Extraordinary Receipts, which were at that time estimated to produce 87 lakhs during the current year, that is to say, we would have devoted 23 lakhs out of our expected Extraordinary Receipts of 87 lakhs to capital expenditure, leaving a balance of 64 lakhs of Extraordinary Receipts to come to the rescue of the deficit revenue account. Unfortunately, later on during the current year it became evident that capital expenditure would actually aggregate 1,90 lakhs or 17 lakhs more than estimated in the budget, owing to increased expenditure of 20 lakhs on the Sutlej Valley Project. Moreover Extraordinary Receipts, which I should explain for the benefit of those honourable members who are new to this House, represent in the main the sale of State lands, owing to the general economic depression and the scarcity of money for this form of investment, fell to 69 lakhs as against our estimated income from this source of 87 lakhs, and owing to the deteriorated position of the Revenue Account it became necessary to devote a larger proportion of these Extraordinary Receipts to balance that account. This decision in turn necessitated asking for a further loan from the Government of India. After careful consideration it was decided to ask for a loan of 30 lakhs to be taken at the close of the current year, thus bringing the total of capital borrowings for the year up to 1,80 lakhs as against 1,50 lakhs originally contemplated in the budget, and leaving only 10 lakhs of capital expenditure to be financed from Extraordinary Receipts.

I should here explain that it has hitherto been a principle of provincial finance accepted by this Council that Extraordinary Receipts, which are made up of substantial non-recurring accretions to revenue due to abnormal circumstances or to the disposal of Government assets (mainly in the nature of land), should ordinarily be applied to financing projects of a capital

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nature and should not be devoted to meeting any excess of ordinary expenditure over ordinary income. This is undoubtedly a sound general principle, but exceptional circumstances demand exceptional measures, and the exhaustion of balances in the Revenue Account must be met by devoting to that purpose some part of the Extraordinary Receipts. In essence, the operation is equivalent to devoting some of our own capital resources to meet the temporary necessities of a period of exceptional depression, in preference to the alternative resource of borrowing from elsewhere. I think the Council will agree that it is wiser to employ one's own capital resources when one is hard up than to have recourse to the money-lender.

The position at the end of the current year which I have revealed is thus one of considerable gravity, though not in my judgment one for despair. It is, however, evident that the task of the Finance Department in framing the budget for the year 1931-32 was one of real difficulty. We felt that we must strain every nerve to avoid allowing in a fourth successive year our expenditure to exceed our income, for we cannot contemplate with equanimity the indefinite continuance of the process of using our Extraordinary Receipts to come to the rescue of an insufficient and unexpanding revenue. Apart from other considerations, Extraordinary Receipts are extremely difficult to estimate, as they are very sensitive to any form of economic depression or tightness in the money market. Further, they are not an inexhaustible store. In order therefore to check this process, we must make every effort possible to ensure that our expenditure in the coming year does not exceed our income, and to attain this end not only must we call a halt for the moment on all schemes of development and expansion, which are capable of being temporarily abandoned, but we must also prune down with the axe of retrenchment our ordinary expenditure. We can hardly in the existing state of economic depression, which affects all classes alike, contemplate any substantial increase to our income by means of additional provincial taxation.

This then was the spirit with which we approached the task of framing the budget for the year about to commence. As part A of the memorandum has explained, receipts have been estimated at 11,18 lakhs. We have followed the usual practice of counting on a normal agricultural year and have therefore estimated our receipts at 56 lakhs higher than the revised estimate of the current year. We can calculate with some confidence on an extension of irrigation and cultivation on the Sutlej Valley Project, and it is perhaps legitimate to express the hope that the year will see some recovery in prices. There are already signs of a slight recovery. In dealing with the expenditure side, we began by a drastic pruning of the schedule of New Expenditure submitted by the departments. The demands of the departments amounted in round figures to 82 lakhs, of which about 21 lakhs represented non-recurring and about 20 lakhs recurring expenditure. The remainder represented works. Every item of these demands was carefully scrutinized, and the total was reduced to 52 lakhs. As has been explained in paragraph 16 of the memorandum, the greater part of this figure is made up of items which are not really in any sense new expenditure. Fourteen-and-a-half lakhs represent renewed sanction for temporary establishments already in existence, such as colony staff, the two Gurdwara

Tribunals and the staff for the consolidation of holdings. There is another large item of 12 lakhs to meet the consolidated grant which Government is under an obligation to provide for district boards. The provision for minor works, tools and plant in both branches of the Public Works Department accounts for a further 21 lakhs. Genuine new expenditure provided for in the budget is only 4½ lakhs, two-thirds of which is non-recurring. New recurring expenditure has been kept at the very low figure of 1½ lakhs. The item of 12 lakhs as a consolidated grant to district boards, to which I have alluded, appears in the schedule for the first time this year. As I have stated, this really represents the implementing of an existing obligation, and for purposes of comparison the amount provided in the schedule should be taken at 40 lakhs only as against 47 lakhs in the year now drawing to a close.

I much regret the necessity of having to cut down so rigorously the demands of the spending departments, but as I have indicated the only sound policy to pursue in circumstances like those which now confront us is to stop for the moment all projects of expansion and development. Almost the only department of Government whose demands we have been able to meet practically in full is the department of Co-operative Credit, for we feel there is no measure better calculated to counteract the prevailing economic depression than the extension of facilities for securing credit at reasonable rates and for the encouragement of thrift. Practically every other department has had to postpone schemes which they no doubt considered as eminently desirable but which we cannot regard as stark necessities.

So much for the schedule of New Expenditure in the coming year. Before I pass to the consideration of retrenchments effected in our ordinary revenue expenditure for 1931-32, I think the Council would like to have some details of the retrenchments effected during the current year to which I have already referred, as the decision of Government regarding the current year will also have effect during the next year. Government found, when it examined the figures for the receipts under the main revenue heads for the months of April to July 1930, that these showed a shortage of 11 or 12 lakhs as compared with budget estimates, and that the chances were that the total shortage for the year might amount to a figure about 5 or 6 times the sum. All departments were thereupon instructed to suggest in what items of their budget savings could be effected and the whole range of expenditure in all departments came under careful and detailed scrutiny by Government. One item in which drastic retrenchment was made was that of travelling allowance. The rates for mileage by road have been cut down by 25 per cent. and the rates of other forms of travelling allowance are now under examination. Orders were also issued to leave unfilled certain posts already sanctioned, and to reduce so far as possible establishments on a temporary basis. The strength of the temporary establishment in the Public Works Department, for instance, depends on the amount of work in hand. With the reduction in works made inevitable by financial stringency, it is possible to combine a reduction in temporary establishment. Another important item was a general instruction to reduce the rates paid for works executed for both branches of the Public Works Department, in proportion to the general fall in the price of labour. As a result of this

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scrutiny, retrenchments aggregating 28¼ lakhs in the current year were carried out. A rough distribution of this sum between the various departments is as follows :—

	Lakhs.
Police..	2
Education	8½
Agriculture	4
Veterinary	¾
Medical	1½
Public Health	1
Public Works—	
Buildings and Roads	7¼
Irrigation	2½
Other Departments (minor items)	¾

making a total, as I have already stated, of 28¼ lakhs. Various miscellaneous savings will probably bring this figure by the end of the current year up to a sum of between 30 and 31 lakhs. The modified grant for the total expenditure charged to revenue for the current year was 11,40 lakhs, and this sum will thus be reduced by the retrenchments carried out to roughly 11,10 lakhs.

Unfortunately, against this saving we must set off excesses in various departments. The most important of these are—

5 Lakhs under Police,

3 Lakhs under Administration of Justice, and

4 Lakhs under Pensions.

All these are unavoidable excesses. Those under Police and Administration of Justice are, of course, the direct consequence of the civil disobedience movement. There are miscellaneous small excesses elsewhere, and we may estimate roughly that the total excesses during the current year will be between 13 and 14 lakhs. This reduces the savings for this year to a sum of between 17 and 18 lakhs, and thus gives us a total expenditure charged to revenue for the current year of 11,22 lakhs or 18 lakhs below the figure of the modified grant. I think it is fair to say that but for retrenchment the expenditure would have risen to a figure between 11,50 and 11,55 lakhs, and thus we may claim to have effected a gross saving of some 30 lakhs during the current year. I desire to acknowledge the ready co-operation with which the various departments of Government met the demand for retrenchments.

I now turn to the retrenchments effected in the budget for the coming year, 1931-32. We have managed to reduce the total expenditure charged to revenue for next year down to a figure of 10,83 lakhs,—a decrease of no less than 39 lakhs on the revised estimate for the current year, and a lower figure than has been reached since 1927-28. These large reductions are the result partly of the continuing effect of the retrenchments ordered by Government in the summer of last year, partly of cuts voluntarily made in

their budgets by the various departments, partly of further cuts suggested by the Finance Department after the first edition of the budget had been prepared and partly of severe pruning of the demands for minor works and repairs. Among other items I may mention a cut made by the Finance Department of from 5 to 10 per cent. in all contingencies, implying a saving of about 6 lakhs, a reduction of at least 10 per cent. or 7½ lakhs in all in the provision for travelling allowance as a result of the cut in the rates of these allowances already described, percentage cuts under such heads as "diet and road money of witnesses;" and "dietary charges in jails and hospitals" (rendered possible by the fall in the prices of foodstuffs) and lump sum cuts in certain departments, such as Forests and Agriculture.

Comparing the budget estimate for next year with that of the current year the only heads of the Revenue Account which show increases in expenditure are—

14—Interest—Irrigation,
26—Police,
41—C—Hydro-Electric Scheme—Interest,
45—Superannuation—Allowances and Pensions.

The excess under Police is in consequence of the prospect of the continuance of the civil disobedience and terrorist movements. Under the other heads mentioned, the excesses are all unavoidable. The heads of expenditure showing the greatest decline as compared with the budget estimate for the current year are Direct demands on Revenue, which are down by 3½ lakhs, Civil Administration, which is down by 6½ lakhs, Beneficent Departments down by 21½ lakhs and Buildings, Roads and Hydro-Electric down by 11 lakhs. We have, for example, made a saving of 9 lakhs by postponing works in progress, mainly under Buildings and Roads, already sanctioned. The provision for repairs to roads and buildings has been reduced by 5 lakhs, and in the case of buildings orders have been issued that only such repairs are to be carried out as are necessary to keep them wind and weather proof.

This drastic curtailment of expenditure must, of course, as I have already stated, involve calling a halt in all projects of extension and development and restricting expenditure for the time being to what I have described as stark necessities. This is a result which all will regret, but I think all will agree that the action proposed is the only one compatible with sound finance. This is especially true of expenditure by the Beneficent Departments of Government, much of which takes the form of grants to local bodies for the construction of schools and dispensaries, and imposes on those bodies an obligation of proportionate expenditure, often of a recurring nature, from their own resources. Most local bodies are at the moment as hard hit by the general economic depression as Government, and it would be useless to impose on them obligations which they are unable to meet.

I do not claim that the retrenchments already carried out or ordered are the last word in this direction or that our task is completed. Further efforts must be made, and I am glad to think that in these efforts Government will have the assistance of a committee of this House appointed in pursuance of the resolution passed a day or two
3 P. M. ago. But at the moment we have reduced the

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estimated expenditure by nearly 40 lakhs, a reduction which I hope will be adequate to meet the immediate needs of the situation. I would here like to refer to suggestions that have been made in various quarters regarding the reduction of salaries. In the case of all-India services and existing incumbents of provincial services and subordinate services recruited before a certain date such reductions are not within the power of the Local Government and would require the orders of higher authority. Any such orders would presumably have to be of all-India application. In cases where reduction is within the power of the Local Government, it must be remembered that to make such reduction in the case of existing incumbents would probably not, for reasons which I will explain, be a real measure of economy. Under the terms of the Civil Service Regulations, which embody the conditions of the contract existing between Government and its employees, an officer the pay of whose appointment is reduced as part of a general scheme of revision is entitled in certain circumstances to a compensation pension or the grant of a personal allowance. Thus a general reduction of the salaries of officers already in the service of Government would mean, in some cases at least, a heavy claim for compensation, and would probably, for the time being at any rate, result in an increased rather than reduced expenditure.

The case of future entrants into Government service stands, of course, on a different footing and raises very wide questions. I suggest that it is premature to decide on the experience of a single year of grave economic depression that the general scale of salaries paid by the Local Government to its employees is unnecessarily high. If, however, there is to be a permanent fall in the cost of living followed, as I think eventually it must be followed, by a general fall in the rates of wages, then it is a matter for serious consideration whether Government will not have to fall into line with other great employers of labour. I do not desire to pronounce any opinion one way or the other on the subject. I only desire to draw attention to one or two of the wider issues involved. I am, however, at the moment not convinced that our financial difficulties are of so permanent and abiding a nature as to necessitate the immediate introduction of measures, which must in certain cases operate harshly and which must also tend to impair the general confidence in Government which is so essential an ingredient of its credit.

I have explained the anticipated state of the Revenue Account during the year that is about to commence. I now turn to the Capital Account of the same year. First of all as regards Extraordinary Receipts, the estimate of these has been kept at the low figure of 66 lakhs. During the current year, as I have already mentioned, the estimate of Extraordinary Receipts was 87 lakhs, but it is now expected that the actuals will fall short of this figure by 18 lakhs. We are, thus, going 3 lakhs below the actuals of the present year, a conservative estimate.

Capital expenditure during 1931-32 is expected to amount to 2,15 lakhs, of which 1,54 lakhs is expenditure on the Hydro-Electric Scheme, a project which has now reached or shortly will reach, the peak of its expenditure. Our advances from the Provincial Loans Account to local bodies and in the form of *taqavi* are expected to be 33 lakhs and our recoveries on this account to be 37 lakhs, leaving a balance of 4 lakhs which will be devoted to capital expenditure. This will leave us with 2,11 lakhs of capital expenditure

to be financed by the 66 lakhs of Extraordinary Receipts, to which I have just referred, and by a loan of 1,00 lakhs from the Government of India. This will still leave a balance of 45 lakhs of capital expenditure, which, if the departments concerned are able to work up to their full estimates, we hope to be in a position to meet from our revenue. It should not, however, be understood from this that we propose to violate our usual practice of not devoting revenue receipts to capital expenditure. If it is necessary to finance capital expenditure to the extent anticipated, or as is more probable to a somewhat smaller extent, we will in effect only be repaying a portion of the amount which is due from the Revenue Account to the Capital Account and which represents the employment of Extraordinary Receipts to come to the rescue of the deficit Revenue Account in past years. As has been indicated in garagraph 4 of the memorandum, the ability of the Revenue Account to repay to the extent indicated depends on the realization of anticipations regarding receipts and expenditure, which may prove to be too optimistic. In that contingency we should have to ask for a further loan for capital expenditure, but at the moment, in order to avoid incurring additional charges on account of interest until the last possible moment, we propose to limit our demand for a loan to the sum already mentioned, *viz.*, 1,00 lakhs.

I have already in dealing with the Revenue Account for 1931-32 explained that receipts are expected to exceed expenditure by 35 lakhs. The budget, as a whole, shows a closing balance of 17 lakhs, all of which will be in the Famine Relief Fund and other funds. An account of these funds is given in paragraph 5 of the memorandum. Honourable members may be interested in the Central Road Development Fund which appears in the accounts for the first time this year. This represents the allotment to the Punjab of the petrol tax collected by the Central Road Board. Our share of this tax has been 11·80 lakhs, of which we have spent or expect to spend by the end of this year 5·84 lakhs, carrying forward to next year a credit balance of slightly under 6 lakhs. We expect to receive a further allotment during the year 1931-32, but at present we have no official information as to what this amount is likely to be. In the budget we have taken credit for a further allotment of 3½ lakhs, but this represents the amount that we expect to receive on account of the second half of the current financial year, which will not probably be paid to us till 2 or 3 months after the commencement of next year. No commitments will be incurred against this sum of 3½ lakhs until we actually receive the amount. We are allowed to spend this allotment only on arterial roads or subsidiary works, such as bridges, etc., which are approved by the Central Road Board.

I would also like to add a word about the Revenue Reserve Fund, which under the orders of the Secretary of State ceases to exist this year, the balance of about 10 lakhs at the credit of the fund being taken to the credit of Revenue Receipts as explained in paragraph 10 of the memorandum. This fund is designed as a kind of savings bank in which we could build up a balance out of our Revenue Receipts to meet a deficit caused by an unexpected seasonal calamity. In future we must as opportunities permit endeavour to build up such a reserve in our Revenue Account.

It is usual when presenting the budget to make some reference to the stage reached in the construction of the two great capital projects, the

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Sutlej Valley Project and the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme. As regards the Sutlej Valley Project, the actual expenditure on the British portion of the project up to the 31st of March 1930 was 8,56 lakhs as against the sanctioned estimate of 9,87 lakhs. During the year 1930-31 the most important large works in progress have been the restoration of the Islam Weir damaged by the devastating floods of 1929 and the construction of the Panjnad Headworks. The restoration of the Islam Weir has cost in all 34·14 lakhs, of which it has been decided to charge 15·52 lakhs to Repairs and 18·62 lakhs to Capital. Of the amount debitable to Capital, the share of the Punjab Government is only a little over one-third or to be exact 6·92 lakhs. As regards the Panjnad Headworks, the expenditure to be met by the Punjab Government during the current year is now estimated to be 15 lakhs. Apart from these two large works, capital expenditure on the Sutlej Valley Project this year will be mainly on the construction of distributary and watercourse system and quarters for establishment. As now estimated the total capital expenditure amounts to 49 lakhs as against the figure of 27¼ lakhs in the original budget for the current year. In 1931-32 the budget provides for expenditure of 31¾ lakhs, including establishment. The only large work in progress will be the Panjnad Headworks. It is expected that the Annexe to the Panjnad Weir decided upon after the consideration of the report of the committee which examined the causes of the damage done by floods will be completed by May 1931 and that the river will be diverted over the weir next cold weather.

It is interesting to note that during the current year direct receipts on account of the Sutlej Valley Project for the first time exceed working expenses, direct receipts being 37·40 lakhs and working expenses 33·66 lakhs. In 1931-32 the excess of receipts over working expenses is expected to be larger, direct receipts being 44·04 lakhs and working expenses 35·39 lakhs. I should, however, explain that working expenses do not include interest on capital outlay while on the receipt side no account is taken of indirect receipts.

On the other great project, the Hydro-Electric Project, expenditure up to the 31st of March 1930 amounted to 1,53 lakhs. During the current year it is expected that 96½ lakhs will be spent or 3½ lakhs less than the provision of one crore in the budget. Good progress has been made with the driving of the tunnel, the portion from the South Adit Junction to the Surge Shaft having been completed. The lining of the tunnel with concrete has commenced and so has the construction of the important hydraulic works in the Uhl valley, a subsubtantial part of which will be completed by the end of the current year. Rapid progress has been made during the course of the year on the erection of the trunk transmission line, nearly half of which will be finished by the end of this month. A portion of the material for the branch transmission lines is also being purchased this year and buildings required in connection with the transmission system, such as offices, stores and workshops, are being erected.

The provision for next year is approximately 1,54 lakhs arrived at after the Finance Department had made a cut of 20 lakhs as a precaution against excessive optimism in regared to the rate of progress. During 1931-32 it is

hoped almost to complete the excavation of the tunnel and to make substantial progress with its lining. The budget also includes provision for the erection of the main power-house at Jogindernagar and the cost of the generating plant and the main transformers. We hope during the year to see the erection of the trunk and main branch transmission lines almost completed and the construction of sub-station buildings and quarters far advanced. The budget provision under the head "Transmission" contemplates also large purchases of transformers and other equipment required at the sub-stations.

Since Sir Alexander Stow introduced the budget at this time last year Government has received and considered the report of the Committee of Enquiry into the progress of the project, which was appointed in accordance with the resolution adopted by this Council in July 1929. That Committee arrived at the conclusion that on the assumption that the scheme might not be completed till July 1933, its total cost would amount to about 6¼ crores of rupees. Of this amount it is estimated that a little less than 4⅓ crores inclusive of interest will have been spent by the end of the year 1931-32.

The present financial position of the Punjab may be compared to that of a business man who has with his banker a current account and a loan account. The current account he must usually keep in credit save for an occasional temporary overdraft. His loan he will discharge by regular payments, securing it by a charge on his property. If his income accrues at irregular intervals, he will have from time to time a larger credit in his current account than he actually needs and may temporarily put some of that surplus balance into a fixed deposit. The Punjab is in an exactly similar position. Its banker is the Government of India. Its current account is its Revenue Account, which must be kept in credit. At the moment, owing to three bad years, it is out of credit to an extent which we hope to be able to reduce substantially by March 1932. But as provincial revenue comes in at irregular intervals, it is necessary to have in April of each year a credit balance of between 1,00 and 1,25 lakhs to avoid having to make temporary borrowings to carry us over till June when revenue begins to be paid in. Out of that balance we can lend, and have in previous years lent, a certain sum to the Government of India on fixed deposit, on which we are paid interest. The problem with which the Finance Department is faced, is to convert the existing overdraft into a credit balance. I do not say that this can be accomplished in a single year, but we must continue our efforts to make a profit on each year's working until a sufficiently large balance has been built up. Careful economy and the examination of all possible sources of increasing our revenues are obviously called for.

As regards our loan account, the situation is as follows. The province had a pre-Reform irrigation debt of 22 crores. On this we have to pay interest but have not to make repayments of capital. Besides this, there is the post-Reform debt for productive capital expenditure, of which 6¼ crores were borrowed from the Government of India, which is being discharged by annual payments on account of capital and interest, and 2,76 lakhs were raised by Punjab Bonds, which are due for repayment partly in 1933 and partly in 1937. All these debts have been incurred for productive projects. In addition, there is the unpaid balance of the revenue loan taken in 1922-23 amounting to about 60 lakhs, which is being paid off in instalments

[Hon. Sir Henry Craik.]

spread over 20 years. This loan was necessitated by the adverse results of two extraordinarily bad years, 1921-22 and 1922-23.

At first sight, there may not seem to be much scope for optimism in the survey of our financial position which I have laid before the House. Unthinking optimism would indeed be criminal. The pessimist—and naturally enough there are plenty of them to be found in every section of society at the moment—might reinforce his gloomy philosophy by pointing to the fact that in the past decade the really bad years have outnumbered the really good, and that there is at present little sign of recovery of prices. As regards future political changes, the pessimist may argue that experience has shown that the more democratic the form of Government, the greater its cost, as democracy can only be economical at the cost of popularity, and that whatever constitutional changes are made the expensive luxury of agitation has become a habit. But there is another side to the picture. Our revenue, though inelastic, does show over a period of years a steady tendency to rise and not to fall. Prices have before now sunk only to rise again, and many shrewd judges hold that the worst phase of the present depression has been passed. Further, it is reasonable to hope that any re-adjustment of sources of income between the central and the provincial Governments must be to the advantage of the provinces. At any rate we can derive satisfaction from the fact that the Punjab Government's finances have weathered much worse storms than the present. Though the first two years after the introduction of the Reforms in 1921 saw a credit balance of 66 lakhs converted into a deficit balance of 2,27 lakhs, nevertheless in spite of that handicap the decade now closing has been one of steady progress and material advance,—two great productive projects are approaching completion and there has been an enormous expansion in the work of the nation-building departments. On such a survey we can, I claim, look back with pride on the progress of our province during the last ten years and look forward to the future, if not with careless confidence, at least with courage.

I present to the House the budget for 1931-32.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Secretary : The following candidates have been nominated as candidates for the office of Deputy President :—

Sardar Buta Singh—

Proposed by Sardar Gurbachan Singh and seconded by Sardar Mohan Singh ;

Proposed by Chaudhri Shah Muhammad and seconded by Chaudhri Ram Sarup ;

Proposed by Sardar Bishen Singh and seconded by Sardar Sampuran Singh.

Mr. Din Muhammad—

Proposed by Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram and seconded by Shaikh Abdul Ghani.

Kanwar Mamraj Singh—

Proposed by Lala Gopal Das and seconded by Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri.

The election is to be held by card vote. The Council will now proceed to vote.

Kanwar Mamraj Singh Chohan : As advised by my friends I withdraw my candidature.

Mr. President : The election will than be confined to Sardar Buta Singh and Mr. Din Muhammad.

Mr. President : The result of the voting is as follows :—

For Sardar Buta Singh 40 votes,

for Mr. Din Muhammad 37.

Sardar Buta Singh is declared elected subject to the approval of His Excellency the Governor.

MOTIONS.

Motion *re* election of four non-official members to the Forest Board.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : Sir, I move—

> "That this Council do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of four non-official members of the Council to serve on the Forest Board.

The motion was carried.

Secretary : For the purpose of election of four representatives to serve on the Forest Board, the members should send in nominations to the Council Office not later than 3 P.M. on Friday, the 20th March 1931. Nominations should be made in writing and be signed by not less than two members and the member nominated must signify his willingness to serve, if elected. The Honourable the President has directed that the election will be by the single transferable vote system and will be held in the Council Chamber on Monday, the 23rd March 1931.

Motion *re* election of members to the North-Western Railway Advisory Committee.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : Sir, I move—

> "That this Council do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of three representatives who may or may not be members of the Council to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee, representing Agriculture, Trade and Industrial Interests, respectively.

The motion was carried.

Secretary : For the purpose of election of three representatives to serve on the Railway Advisory Committee, the members should send in nominations for the three different interests, namely, Agriculture, Trade and Industries, to the Council Office not later than 3 P. M. on Friday, the 20th March 1931. Nominations should be made in writing and be signed by not less than two members and the candidate nominated must signify his willingness to serve on the Committee if elected. The election will be conducted by card vote and will be held in this Chamber on Monday, the 23rd March 1931.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Tuesday, 3rd March 1931.

398 PLC—600—24-3-31—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 3rd March 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in :—

Arjan Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Dera Ghazi Khan-Rajanpur Road.

*121. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state what steps have been taken to improve the Dera Ghazi Khan-Rajanpur Road since its provincialisation ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The road was provincialised in 1926, and an estimate amounting to Rs. 9,052 for the provision of mile posts and boundary pillars was sanctioned in 1928. Another estimate has been prepared for Rs. 26,000 odd for improving certain miles but has not been sanctioned for want of funds. Improvements will be taken up as soon as funds are available.

Dismissal of S. Hamid Ali, late Tahsildar of Phalia.

*122. **Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state when S. Hamid Ali, a late Tahsildar at Phalia in the Gujrat district, was dismissed from the service of Government as a result of a case of corruption and another of improper utterance against Europeans ?

(*b*) Is he aware that Mr. R. T. Clarke, late Deputy Commissioner of Ambala district, had a serious quarrel with the said Tahsildar in 1913 or 1914, as a result of which the said Tahsildar was transferred from Ambala division to Lahore division and posted in the district of Gujrat where the said Mr. Clarke also joined as Deputy Commissioner ?

(*c*) Is he aware that these cases were based on a confidential diary of one Harbans Singh, second in charge of Thana Dinga, whose conduct had been severely criticised by the said Tahsildar in judicial case under section 426, I. P. C., long before he submitted his said diary, and that these cases were prepared by one Muhammad Ali, the first in charge of the same thana ?

[Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.]

(*d*) Is he aware that among the witnesses produced against the said Tahsildar in these cases, the chief witness was one Ghulam Muhammad, a sufedposh of village Chellianwala and the others were men of his community or intimately connected with him and had grievances against the said Tahsildar ?

(*e*) Is he also aware that the diary of said Ghulam Muhammad showed that he was absent from the place on the day on which he alleged that he heard the improper talk of the Tahsildar and that the Special Magistrate deputed for these cases, noted this in his proceedings but purposely omitted the fact in his final report ?

(*f*) Is he aware that this very Ghulam Muhammad had been described as *Shutar Murgh* (ostrich) by the said Tahsildar before there was an idea of starting any case against him, in his report regarding his confirmation as *sufedposh* ?

(*g*) Is he aware that the case of alleged corruption was declared by Mr. I. C. Lal, I.C.S., who succeeded Mr. Clarke, as Deputy Commissioner, in his order in or about 1916 when dealing with the case of restoration of Raja Khuda Bakhsh, Zaildar, the alleged go-between for arranging the said bribe, to be utterly false ?

(*h*) Is he also aware that the other case involves a trifling matter which could not be said to have been proved under the circumstances stated above and which could not warrant the dismissal of a public servant of long standing, about 30 years, even if proved ?

(*i*) Is the Honourable Member aware that this case has produced a great scandal and a great uneasiness in the minds of all Indian public servants ?

(*j*) What steps, if any, does the Government intend to take to rectify this wrong ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes in 1915.

(*b*)—(*j*) Munshi Hamid Ali was dismissed as a result of the departmental enquiry held into his conduct and Government does not consider that to re-open the case after so many years would answer any useful purpose.

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANTS.

***123. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to 'Facts' as stated in the *Muslim Outlook* of 24th January 1931, page 6, under the heading 'Agricultural Assistants in the Punjab';

(*b*) whether it is a fact that out of a total of 192 A Class Agricultural Assistants—Grade Rs. 100—10—300 there are 45 Hindus, *i.e.*, 24 per cent., 66 Muslims, *i.e.*, 34.3 per cent, 81 Sikhs, *i.e.*, 42.2 per cent., and out of 57 B Class Agricultural Assistants,

Grade Rs. 70—4—180 there are 15 Hindus, *i.e.*, 26.3 per cent., 19 Muslims, *i.e.* 33.3 per cent. and 23 Sikhs, *i.e.*, 40.4 per cent.

(*c*) if not, what are the actual figures and their percentage ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that retrenchment is contemplated in these posts in the near future ;

(*e*) if so, whether Government intends to retrench in a manner as to bring about a fair representation of all communities in this service ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes ;

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table ;

(*d*) The matter is under consideration ;

(*e*) It is likely that the reduction, if made, will be confined to temporary and officiating staff and in making it the claims of the various communities will be considered.

Serial No.	Agricultural Assistants.	Total.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Others.	Percentage. Hindus.	Percentage. Muslims.	Percentage. Sikhs.	Percentage. Others.
	I.—'A' CLASS.									
1	Permanent ..	167	38	57	71	1	22.8	34.1	42.5	.6
2	Permanent whose lien has been suspended.	7	2	3	2	..	28.6	42.8	28.6	..
3	Officiating ..	14	2	2	9	1	14.3	14.3	64.3	7.1
4	Temporary ..	5	2	..	3	..	40.0	..	60.0	..
	Total ..	193	44	62	85	2	22.8	32.1	44.1	1.
	II.—'B' CLASS.									
1	Permanent ..	*53	9	18	25	1	17.0	34.0	47.2	1.8
2	Permanent whose lien has been suspended.	1	..	1	..	..	..	100.0	..	..
3	Officiating ..	2	1	..	1	..	50.0	..	50.0	..
4	Temporary ..	1	1	..	..	..	100.0	..	..	..
	Total ..	57	11	19	26	1	19.3	33.3	45.6	1.8

*One post vacant.

KILLA GIFT FUND, LYALLPUR DISTRICT.

*124. **Mian Nurullah** : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total amount of Killa Gift Fund that was collected from the zamindars of the Lyallpur district about the close of the war along with the revenue at the rate of Rs. 33 per square ;

(*b*) whose property it is ;

(*c*) under what authority, by whom, in what securities and in which year it was invested ;

(*d*) what has been the annual profit each year since it was raised ;

(*e*) how has that profit been spent ;

(*f*) whether there is any possibility of increasing the return from it by investment somewhere else without increasing the risk ;

(*g*) if it is the property of the zamindars whether the Government is prepared to hand it over to the District Board or the zamindars ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Rs. 14,64,562-8-0.

(*b*) The amount is vested in Government in trust for the benefit of the people of the Lyallpur district to be operated on by a committee consisting of the Deputy Commissioner and three members of the District Board.

(*c*) The required information is given in detail in the introductory paragraph and part 1 of the schedule of the Killa Gift Fund Trust Deed, a copy of which is placed on the table.

(*d*) Rs. 83,000 annually.

(*e*) The income of the Fund has been expended according to the terms of paragraphs 4 to 7 of the Killa Gift Fund Trust Deed by making grants to various institutions, libraries, etc., and by the award of scholarships to students.

(*f*) Government considers that taking all facts into consideration, the fund is well invested.

(*g*) Does not arise.

EXTRACT FROM KILLA GIFT FUND TRUST DEED, DATED 24TH FEBRUARY 1931.

To all to whom these presents shall come I, the Governor of the Punjab in Council, this twenty second day of February 1924 send greeting—

WHEREAS certain moneys were collected in the district of Lyallpur in the Punjab for presentation to Government and for investment in the War Loans which have been issued by the Government of India AND WHEREAS the circumstances of such collection and gift are set out in the printed Proceedings, Part A, Nos. 59 to 71 of August 1918 (Financial) issued by the Punjab Government Civil Secretariat AND WHEREAS the money so collected and given is now represented by the several investments which are described in the First Part of the Schedule hereto AND WHEREAS the unexpended balances of the income accruing from the said investments are now represented by the several investments and sums of money which are described in the Second Part of the said Schedule, and which are hereinafter referred to as the Killa Gift Fund AND WHEREAS although the said moneys are the absolute property of Government and their

expenditure is in the absolute discretion of the Government of the Punjab, it has been decided that such moneys shall at present be applied and the income thereof expended in the manner hereinafter provided NOW THESE PRESENTS WITNESS and I hereby declare as follows :—

(1) The Governor of the Punjab in Council shall have full power at any time hereafter to vary or determine the trusts hereby created and to apply the Killa Gift Fund or any part thereof at his absolute discretion but unless or until such trusts are varied or determined as aforesaid the following trusts shall have full force and effect.

(2) The Killa Gift Fund and the securities, investments and moneys for the time being representing the same shall be deposited and kept with the Imperial Bank of India, Lyallpur, in the name of the Killa Gift Trust hereby constituted.

(3) The trustees of the trust shall be the Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur for the time being who shall be chairman of the Trust and one Muhammadan, one Sikh and one Hindu severally selected from among its members by the District Board of Lyallpur who shall respectively continue to be trustees for the period for which each such trustee shall continue to serve as member of the said District Board. In the event of any such trustee tendering his resignation to the Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur or in the event of his being unable owing to illness or any other cause to be able to attend the meetings of Trust for a period of 12 months or in the event of the expiry of the period for which such trustee was nominated or elected as a member of the said District Board the members of the said District Board shall be at liberty to nominate a trustee in his place but any trustee retiring owing to the expiry of his membership of the District Board may be renominated should he continue to serve for a fresh period as a member of the District Board.

(4) The income of the Killa Gift Fund shall only be expended by making payments the refrom for objects directly connected with the interests of the agricultural community generally in the Lyallpur district or other objects directly beneficial to the Muhammadan, Sikh or Hindu community of agriculturists in the Lyallpur district.

(5) The income of the Trust Fund in any one financial year shall be considered to be the net income derived from securities and from interest allowed on deposits during the year in question. Past income of the Fund now or hereafter deposited in the Bank but not already invested in securities may be treated as capital or income at the discretion of the trustees.

(6) The trustees shall have power to allocate the income of any financial year or any part thereof or any income unexpended in any previous financial year upon the objects of the trust but in such manner that any amount expended upon objects beneficial to a particular community alone shall not exceed in the case of Muhammadans more than 60 per cent., in the case of Sikhs more than 30 per cent. and in the case of Hindus more than 10 per cent. of the income available for expenditure in the year in question. The trustees may exceed these proportions in any one financial year to the extent of Rs. 20,000 in the case of allocations to objects beneficial to the Muhammadan community, of Rs. 10,000 in the case of objects beneficial to the Sikh community and of Rs. 3,500 in the case of objects beneficial to the Hindu community but so that the total income available for that year shall not be exceeded and the amount applied in excess of the communal proportion above limited shall be adjusted for the benefit of the other communities in the expenditure of succeeding years. In reckoning the above proportions any sums which are allocated to objects beneficial to the agricultural community generally and not to a particular community shall be treated as if they had been allocated to the Muhammadan, Sikh and Hindu communities in the proportions above provided.

(7) The allocation of the available income shall be by vote of the trustees and the decision of the majority shall prevail. In case of equality of votes the chairman shall have a casting vote. No such allocation shall be put into force and no money shall be paid without the sanction of Government expressly obtained in regard to each such payment.

(8) The Trust securities shall not be sold or varied without the consent of Government and in the event of any existing securities being repaid by Government the proceeds shall be re-invested in the securities of the Government of India or other Trustees securities approved by the Punjab Government.

(9) The income and uninvested balance of the Trust Funds shall be placed to an account at the Imperial Bank of India, Lyallpur, to be known as the Killa Gift Trust Account and operated upon by cheques signed by the Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, for the time being and one of the Trustees. The Trustees shall also have full discretion to place any such moneys in Fixed Deposit Account or to keep the same in Floating Account at the Bank.

(10) The trustees shall render annual accounts on the conclusion of each financial year which shall be laid before Government as soon thereafter as conveniently possible.

(11) The trustees shall be at liberty to make rules for the conduct of business and to pay the expenses of the trust including the proper expenses of the trustees in the performance of their duties out of the income of the trust. Trustees shall receive no pecuniary benefit or pay beyond the amount of their actual out of pocket expenses.

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

(12) The Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, shall maintain the necessary books including a minute book in which shall be recorded all appointments and resignations of trustees, all business transacted and the names of trustees present. Such books shall be open to the inspection of Government at any time.

SCHEDULE.

PART I.

(*Original War Loan.*)

					Rs.	A.	P.
(a) Inscribed stock of Government of India's 5½ per cent. War Bonds, 1928					13,85,600	0	0
(b) Inscribed stock of Government of India's 5½ per cent. Postal Bonds, 1928					52,225	0	0
(c) Post Office 5-years' Cash Certificates :—							
	Rs.	A.	P.				
Lyallpur tahsil	8,703	4	0				
Toba Tek Singh tahsil	7,339	4	0				
Jaranwala tahsil	3,162	0	0				
Samundri tahsil	7,533	0	0				
					26,737	8	0
Total ..					14,64,562	8	0

PART II-A.

(*Investments subsequently made.*)

	Rs.	A.	P.
(a) Government Promissory Notes of the 6 per cent. Loan of 1931	50,000	0	0

PART II-B.

(a) Amount of cash deposited with the Imperial Bank of India, Ltd., Lyallpur :—						
	Rs.	A.	P.			
(1) Current account				18,357	1	7
(2) Fixed deposit	32,100	0	0			
	37,000	0	0			
				69,100	0	0
Total Part II-B ..				87,457	1	7
GRAND TOTAL ..				16,02,019	9	7

TOURS BY CANAL OFFICERS.

***125. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that some Canal Officers still persist in the practice of getting camp provisions free through their subordinate staff ;

(b) if the reply be in the negative will the Government please state the average number of men accompanying an S. D. O. camp ;

(*c*) the number of Canal S. D. Os. residing in Sheikhupura, Lyallpur and Jhang districts and the details of indents of provisions supplied to them by the paid contractors while on tour in the year 1929-30?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) No.

(*b*) 10 to 12.

(*c*) In Sheikhupura district	8
In Lyallpur district	11
In Jhang district	5

Indents of provisions to be supplied by paid contractors are not recorded.

SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

***126. Mian Nurullah:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of meters that have been constructed on the canal of the Sutlej Valley Project with the cost of each;

(*b*) whether all of them have failed;

(*c*) if so, what action has the Government taken in the matter?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) Sixteen have been constructed at an average cost of Rs. 16,237 each.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) None.

BUDGET.

***127. Mian Nurullah:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what has been the total deficit in the budget of the current year;

(*b*) in which department it has been the largest;

(*c*) what steps has the Government taken to meet with the deficit and with what result;

(*d*) will the Government kindly lay on the table a comprehensive statement showing (*i*) whether any departments have been abolished altogether; (*ii*) whether any posts have come under retrenchment; (*iii*) whether any reductions have been effected in the salaries of the officers and the establishment; (*iv*) any other methods by which the expenditure has been curtailed and economies effected;

(*e*) how much has been saved under each of the heads mentioned in (*d*);

(*f*) whether any more taxes have been levied or increase of income effected under any other heads;

(*g*) if so, by how much the incomes have been so increased;

[Mian Nurullah.]

(*h*) whether it is the intention of the Government to further increase the income and reduce expenditure;

(*i*) if so, which sources of income and which avenues of expenditure the Government intends to tackle in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The honourable member is referred to the Budget statement for 1931-32 and the accompanying memorandum presented to the Legislative Council on 2nd March 1931.

INCOME-TAX.

***128. Mian Nurullah:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the local Government has recommended to the Government of India to lower the taxable limit of income;

(*b*) whether it is the intention of the Government to ask the Government of India to refund the income-tax so levied for provincial purposes;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative will the Government please explain the reasons why it is not prepared to do so;

(*d*) what would approximately be the income-tax if levied on incomes between Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000 per annum and incomes between Rs. 1,000 and 2,000 in this province?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: As Finance Member I have no concern with the administration of income-tax which is a central subject administered by officers appointed by the Central Government.

SCHOOL FEES.

***129. Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether there are at present two grades of fees in Government and aided schools;

(*b*) whether the Education Department had under consideration a proposal to abolish these grades and to create an intermediate grade for all whereby the rate of fees charged will be 150 per cent. that of the present second grade;

(*c*) if so, whether Government is aware that it will adversely affect the interest of the poor and the backward classes?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government are considering many suggestions in this connection but have arrived at no decision.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

***130. Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) how many scholarships Government awards annually out of the provincial revenues to deserving successful candidates on the result of the Intermediate Examination of the University;

(*b*) whether the Government has laid down a definite condition that only first division men are eligible for the said scholarships ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Punjab University considers only the first division men eligible for the said scholarships ;

(*d*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, what is the reason for confining the benefit of these scholarships only to first division men and not to the topmost successful candidates drawn from various communities ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Thirty-two.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) It appears that there has been a misunderstanding with the University in the matter ; which misunderstanding is being removed.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

***131. Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim employees grade-wise in the Education Department in (1) March 1926 ; and (2) at present ;

(*b*) if there is a fall in the number of Muslims, what it is due to ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the consolidated statements showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government as it stood on the 1st January, 1926, and 1st January, 1931, which have been laid on the table.

(*b*) Does not arise.

POST-MATRICULATION CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

***132. Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the teachers in post-Matriculation clerical and commercial classes attached to Government Schools are predominantly non-Muslims ;

(*b*) what has been the effect of this preponderance on the admission of the Muslim students to such classes ;

(*c*) what has been the total number of students enrolled in these classes since they were opened ; how many of them have been Muslims ;

(*d*) what steps, if any, Government intends to take to safeguard the interest of Muslim students in the matter ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

BALRAJ SINGH, HEAD MASTER, MURREE.

***133. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable the Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) when was Bhai Balraj Singh, Head Master, Government High School, Murree, promoted to Rs. 200—10—250 grade ;

(*b*) how many Muslims have been superseded by his promotion and why ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) July 1, 1930.

(*b*) 3. In regulating promotions many factors are taken into consideration and it is not in the public interest to state reasons for any particular promotion or supersession.

MUSLIM PROBATION CLERKS IN INSPECTORATE OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***134. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Rawalpindi division—

(*a*) the number of Muslim clerks working in the offices subordinate to the Inspector of Schools who are still on probation ;

(*b*) the number of such Muslim clerks in whose case the period of probation has already exceeded one year ;

(*c*) the reasons why the clerks shown in (*b*) above have not yet been confirmed ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) and (*b*) A statement showing the requisite information is laid on the table.

(*c*) Because they are not considered fit for promotion yet and are being given further opportunity to prove their fitness.

Name of district.	Number of Muslim clerks in the offices subordinate to the Inspector of Schools who are on probation.	Number of such Muslim clerks in whose case the period of probation has already exceeded one year.
1. Rawalpindi	1	1
2. Attock	1	..
3. Shahpur	..	..
4. Jhelum	1	1
5. Gujrat	1	..
6. Mianwali	..	..
Total ..	4	2

MUSLIM CLERKS OF RAWALPINDI INSPECTORATE OF SCHOOLS.

***135. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of cases pending in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, relating to confirmation or grant of increment to Muslim clerks working in offices subordinate to him ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Two.

GRANTS-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI.

***136. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the aggregate amount of grants-in-aid received separately by Hindu, Sikh, Christian and Muslim Schools in the Rawalpindi division in 1929-30 and 1930-31 ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The information for the year 1929-30 will be found in the statement of grants sanctioned for aided schools, published by the Education Department, a copy of which is being supplied to the honourable member. The statement for the year 1930-31 will be published as soon as possible.

GRANTS-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI.

***137. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Hindu, Sikh, Christian and Muslim schools in the Rawalpindi division separately which have been receiving 100 per cent. grant whether from Government or local bodies ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Hindu 1 ; Sikhs 2 ; Muslim 1.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Do not the Mussalmans preponderate in this division ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Yes.

CLERK, GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, JHELUM.

***138. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the post of the clerk in the Government High School, Jhelum, fell vacant in 1929 by the transfer of an old Muslim clerk to Lahore ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a new non-Muslim candidate was appointed to the vacancy in Jhelum ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the candidate thus appointed had received no training in the post-matriculation class ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes. The vacancy was caused by transfer on promotion of the Muslim clerk to Lahore.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes. The candidate appointed had three years' experience in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***139. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Vernacular clerk in the office of the District Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi, has been transferred to the Government High School, Bhera ;

(*b*) how has the resultant vacancy in the office of the District Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi, been filled up ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) By the appointment of an unpaid apprentice in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division.

ENGLISH CLERK IN THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MIANWALI.

***140. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the post of English clerk in the office of the District Inspector of Schools, Mianwali, fell vacant ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Matriculate Muslim Vernacular clerk already working in the same office applied for appointment to the vacancy ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the District Inspector of Schools recommended the same Muslim Vernacular clerk for appointment ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the clerk working in the Government Normal School, Campbellpur, was transferred to the office of the District Inspector of Schools, Mianwali ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the clerk in the Government High School, Bhera, was sent to the Government Normal School, Campbellpur ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the English clerk in the office of the District Inspector of Schools, Attock, was sent to the Government High School, Bhera ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that one of the clerks in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, was sent to the office of the District Inspector of Schools, Attock ;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the resultant vacancy in the office of the Inspector of Schools was given to a new Hindu candidate ;

(*i*) the amount of travelling allowance paid to all the clerks whose transfer was involved in the above arrangements ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*)—(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) Rs. 29-4-0.

NORMAL SCHOOL, CHAKWAL.

*141. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable the Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the post of a clerk in the Government High and Normal School, Chakwal, was created last year ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the offer of the appointment to the new post was at first made to a Muslim candidate ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that subsequently the offer was withdrawn ;

(*d*) the reasons why the offer was withdrawn ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Muslim clerk already working in the Government High School, Khushab, was transferred to Chakwal to fill the new appointment ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the resultant vacancy at Khushab was filled by the appointment of a new Hindu candidate ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

AGRICULTURE MASTER, CHAKWAL NORMAL SCHOOL.

*142. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the vacant post of Agriculture Master in the Government High and Normal School, Chakwal, was filled up by the Agriculture Master in Normal School, Lalamusa ;

(*b*) whether there is an agricultural farm or garden plot at Chakwal ;

(*c*) the reasons why it was felt necessary to appoint an Agriculture Master in Chakwal ;

(*d*) whether the Science Master posted at Lalamusa is qualified to teach agriculture ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No, but the students under training are encouraged to have garden plots.

(*c*) To teach nature study.

(*d*) Not in the technical sense of the subject. The matter is under consideration.

HAYAT MUHAMMAD, APPLICANT TO THE CENTRAL TRAINING COLLEGE.

***143. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Hayat Muhammad, B.A., clerk in the Government High School, Khushab, submitted an application for admission to the Central Training College, Lahore ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this application was detained in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, and was not forwarded to the Principal of the Central Training College ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that all the applications except that of Hayat Muhammad were forwarded to the Principal ;

(*d*) the reasons why the application of Hayat Muhammad alone was not forwarded.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Such applications are not forwarded as a matter of course.

STATIONERY FOR DIVISIONAL A.-V. EXAMINATION, RAWALPINDI.

***144. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable the Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the amount of money spent on the purchase of stationery for the Divisional A.-V. Middle Examination in the Rawalpindi division during 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31, separately ;

(*b*) the name of the shop from which the stationery was purchased each year ;

(*c*) whether any tenders were called for the purchase of the stationery ;

(*d*) the agency which made the purchase ;

(*e*) whether the accounts relating to the purchase of stationery and other articles for the Divisional examination are regularly audited every year ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*)

	Rs.	A.	P.
1928	1,616	7	0
1929	774	0	0
1930	883	10	0

(*b*) Lakshmi Art Steam Press, Rawalpindi.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Secretary of the Divisional Educational Association.

(*e*) Yes.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : With reference to (*d*), may I know the name of the Secretary ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I have not got it here. I want notice.

CLERK FOR DIVISIONAL ANGLO-VERNACULAR MIDDLE EXAMINATION IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***145. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a separate clerk has been appointed in connection with the Divisional A.-V. Middle Examination in the Rawalpindi division ;

(*b*) whether the sanction of the Head of the Department has been obtained for this appointment ;

(*c*) the qualifications and pay of the present clerk ;

(*d*) what relation, if any, he is of the Secretary of the Divisional Association who conducts the examination ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) No. A temporary clerk is engaged every year for three or four months to work for the Divisional Examination under the Secretary and is paid from the Divisional Examination Funds.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The present man is a matriculate with about two years' experience as Secretary of Malakwal and Lalamusa Municipalities. His pay is Rs. 40 per mensem.

(*d*) He is son-in-law of the Secretary.

DIVISIONAL LIBRARY IN RAWALPINDI.

***146. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a Divisional Library has been started in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Library has been called after the name of the Inspector of Schools himself ;

(*c*) whether the Library has been started with the sanction of the Head of the Department ;

(*d*) the amount of money which has so far been spent on the Library ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the money spent on the Library was taken from the balance in the Divisional Anglo-Vernacular Middle Examination Fund ;

(*f*) whether the boys from whom the money was received have given their consent to the expenditure of the balance in the fund on the Library ;

(*g*) whether the Library was started for the benefit of the boys and whether they are using it ;

(*h*) whether the Library books are the property of school boys in the division ;

(*i*) the amount spent on books in English, Hindi and Urdu separately ;

(*j*) the agency which spends money on the purchase of books ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Rs. 1,500 approximately.

(*e*) Yes. The Divisional Educational Association allotted the funds.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) The boys do not use the library themselves, but it is intended to improve the teaching in schools in the division.

(*h*) No.

	Rs.
(*i*) English	676
Hindi	48
Urdu	31

(*j*) A committee of management as approved by the Divisional Educational Association.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***147. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the District Board of Jhelum dispensed with the services of two of the headmasters of its Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools for incompetency ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that both these headmasters have been re-appointed by the Inspector of Schools in other districts of the division ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Before passing the resolution mentioned in (*a*), a transfer of these two masters had been arranged. It was after the transfer that the district board passed the resolution without observing the usual course laid down in the rules for such cases. Whether this resolution is not *ultra vires* is still under consideration.

MATRICULATION AND VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINERS.

***148. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims recommended by the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, for appointment as examiners in the Matriculation Examination this year ;

(*b*) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims recommended by the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, for appointment as examiners in the Vernacular Final Examination this year ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Two Muslims and four non-Muslims.

(*b*) Seven Muslims and thirteen non-Muslims.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Is the Honourable Minister satisfied with this representation of Muslims ?

Mr. President : That is asking for opinion.

NON-MUSLIM DISTRICT INSPECTORS.

***149. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the districts of Ambala, Jullundur, Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi have non-Muslim District Inspectors ;

(*b*) whether it is a mere coincidence or is due to some other reasons ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is a coincidence.

COMMUNICATIONS TO HUJRA, MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

***150. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the town of Hujra in the Montgomery district is connected with Renala Khurd-Shergarh by means of a metalled road or by a railway line with any place ?

(*b*) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that great inconvenience is felt by the inhabitants of the town owing to there being no means of communication ? If so, does Government intend to take some action in the matter ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) No.

(*b*) I shall make enquiries.

CHAHI ILAQAS.

***151. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been invited to the fact that the *chahi ilaqas* of the Punjab have suffered a heavy loss owing to the fall in prices ;

(*b*) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to afford relief to these *ilaqas ?*

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The fall in prices has undoubtedly caused a certain amount of distress among the cultivators of the province, including those of the *chahi ilaqas*.

(*b*) Government is ever watching the situation and should the necessity arise will give such relief as the circumstances demand.

VOTERS' LISTS.

***152. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that in tahsil Nawanshahr, district Jullundur, sufficient care is not taken in the preparation of voters' lists for the Punjab Council, the District Board and the Municipal Committee and that the names of a great many voters are left out :

(*b*) if so, what action Government propose to take with a view to put a stop to such carelessness on the part of officials responsible for the preparation of voters' lists ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

WELLS IN JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

***153. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that the water level in the wells of the Jullundur district is going down gradually ;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the reply given to starred question[1] No. 3064 at the July 1930 session of the Council.

PUNITIVE POLICE AT NAWANSHAHR.

***154. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that a punitive police post has been stationed at Nawanshahr, district Jullundur ;

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to parts (*a*) and (*b*) of Council question[2] 3063 (starred) in the July session of the Council (1930).

PUNITIVE POLICE AT NAWANSHAHR.

***155. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that punitive police tax has been imposed in tahsil Nawanshahr ;

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[1] Vol. XVI, page 250.

[2] Vol. XVI, pages 249-50.

(b) whether Government have satisfied themselves that the persons on whom the tax is imposed were guilty of misdeeds ;

(c) if not, what action Government propose to take to exempt innocent persons from this tax ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Yes, in the town of Nawanshahr.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

PUNITIVE POLICE AT NAWANSHAHR.

***156. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state whether he is aware that—

(a) the members of the Ahmadiya Community of Nawanshahr have not taken any part in any movement against the Government ;

(b) punitive police tax has been imposed upon them as well ;

(c) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) This is correct of the community as a whole.

(b) and (c) A large number of exemptions have been given amounting to over two hundred in the aggregate. These exemptions have not been given to any particular community, the principle being to exempt only those who gave active assistance in the maintenance of law and order.

IRRIGATION SUB-OVERSEERS, AMBALA DIVISION.

***157. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdur Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of P. W. D. Irrigation sub-overseers brought under reduction in the Ambala division ;

(b) the number of Hindus and Mussalmans respectively, amongst the above ;

(c) whether there is any Muslim sub-overseer amongst those who have not been brought under reduction ;

(d) whether at the time of reduction military services of sub-overseers were taken into account ;

(e) whether Government issued a letter to the effect that preference in services will be given to persons with military services ;

(f) whether there are any sub-overseers with military services who have been brought under reduction ; if so, whether their military services were taken into account when deciding the question of their reduction ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: It is presumed that the honourable member refers to temporary subordinates, Grade (*b*). There are no sub-overseers now in the Irrigation Branch.

(*a*) 5 Temporary Subordinates, Grade (*b*), were brought under reduction in the Sirhind Canal Circle from 1st January 1930 up to date.

(*b*)

Hindus	2
Muslims	1
Sikhs	2

(*c*) 3 Temporary Subordinates, Grade (*b*).

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) No Temporary Subordinates, Grade (*b*), with military service were brought under reduction.

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

*158. **Sajan Kumar Chaudhry**: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Bhakra Dam Scheme has been submitted for sanction to the Government of India;

(2) if the answer to (1) be in the negative, when the scheme will be submitted to the Government of India in accordance with the resolution of the Punjab Council on the 28th February 1929;

(3) whether the experts appointed to report on the Indus Inundation Canals have submitted their reports; if so, what is their finding and whether the Honourable Member will be pleased to lay the report on the Council table for the information of the House?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (1) No.

(2) No definite date can be given as the project is most complicated and involves interests other than those of the Punjab.

(3) The report was received on 16th December 1930. The finding appears to remove the difficulties anticipated. The report is in the Press and when available a copy will be laid on the table of the House.

INSPECTORS AND HEADMASTERS IN JULLUNDUR.

*159. **Mr. Din Muhammad**: Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) the number of Government High Schools in the Jullundur division as well as the number of District Board High Schools in the same division and the number of their headmasters community-wise;

(*b*) the number of Assistant District Inspectors and District Inspectors of Schools communitywise in the Jullundur division ;

(*c*) the number of non-Muslim head-masters referred to in (*a*) appointed in 1928 and 1929 ; and

(*d*) the name of the Inspector of Schools in charge of the Jullundur division in 1928 and 1929 ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

PLANTATIONS ON CANAL BANKS.

***160. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total length in miles of (*i*) main canals, (*ii*) distributaries, (*iii*) minors in this province ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that plantation of trees exists on the banks of many of the main canals ;

(*c*) how many miles of such plantation are there in all ;

(*d*) what is approximately the area under these plantations ;

(*e*) whether any record or any account of the trees grown in these plantations is kept or not ;

(*f*) if not, how are the plantations looked after ;

(*g*) if an account is kept, what is the total income from this source ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) (*i*) 3,920 miles, (*ii*) 10,312 miles, (*iii*) 5,404 miles.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*). Information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Does not arise.

(*g*) The total income varies from year to year. It was Rs. 82,975 in 1929-30.

EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS FROM DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES AND CO-OPERATION.

***161. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any orders that the members of the clerical staff of the departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation should not be accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioners and that no recommendation should be called for from the Heads of these Departments in this respect ;

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

(b) In case the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government please state the reasons for which the Heads of these three Departments were particularly ignored and overlooked in 1929, while recommendations were called for from Commissioners of the divisions and from various branches of the Secretariat office;

(c) what provision has been made in the Financial Commissioner's Standing Orders or in the new Classification Rules for the highly qualified clerks of these Departments so that they might have an opportunity of rising to Gazetted posts;

(d) the number of Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims from among clerical staff of these Departments who have so far been accepted for Extra Assistant Commissionership or any other Gazetted posts since the formation of these Departments: (the figures may be given separately for each Department);

(e) the number of Extra Assistant Commissioners accepted from clerical service during the last 6 years and state how many of them were graduates;

(f) whether it is the intention of Government to confine selections of Extra Assistant Commissioners from the clerical ranks of graduates, preference being given to law graduates and M. A.'s?

Mr. D. J. Boyd: (a) There are no orders that the members of the clerical staff of the Department of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation should not be accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioner candidates. Heads of these Departments can make recommendations for nomination to the Provincial Civil Service through the Financial Commissioners or the Minister concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Standing Orders of the Financial Commissioners prescribe that the Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies and the Director of Agriculture shall forward each year the nomination roll of one candidate for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner. The Classification Rules of the Department of Industries are silent on the subject.

(d) One Hindu from the Director of Agriculture's office has been accepted as an Extra Assistant Commissioner and one Hindu holding the post of Superintendent in the Director of Industries' Office has been promoted to the gazetted post of Assistant to the Director of Industries.

(e) 27, out of whom 17 were graduates.

(f) No.

PAY DISBURSEMENT TO IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT SUBORDINATES.

*162. **Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) how much travelling allowance was drawn by the Sub-Divisional Officers of the Lower Chenab Canal on account of disbursement of subordinates' salaries in the year 1929-30 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that disbursements are regulated under paragraph 2.26 of the Revenue Manual of the Irrigation Branch ;

(c) what is the method of payment to civil patwaries ;

(d) whether Government intends to adopt the method of disbursement of pay to civil patwaries in the case of the Irrigation Department subordinates ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) The information is not available.

(b) Yes.

(c) Through the Post Office by Money Order.

(d) No, as the present arrangement is both convenient and economical.

AGRICULTURISTS AS PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

*163. **Chaudhri Shah Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any such circular of the Punjab Government that 60 per cent. of the posts should be given to the agriculturists ;

(b) if so, whether that circular applies to the post of Public Prosecutors as well ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The honourable member presumably has in mind the resolution No. 4572-S., dated the 3rd October 1919, published in the Gazette of 10th October 1929, which fixes different percentages for various departments of Government. That resolution did not apply to Public Prosecutors.

AGRICULTURISTS AS PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

*164. **Chaudhri Shah Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state the number of agriculturists who are—

(a) Permanent Public Prosecutors ;

(b) Temporary Public Prosecutors ; and

(c) Candidates for the post of Public Prosecutors ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) 7.

(b) 3.

(c) 43.

VERNACULAR PRESS.

***165. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that the vernacular press of the province is largely responsible for much ill-will between the different communities ;

(*b*) if so, whether Government has got any agency to censor such papers ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Press Branch of the Secretariat examine the vernacular press but Government has no power of censorship in the sense of preventing pub ication.

WATER SUPPLY AT DAJAL, DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

***166. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Arising out of the reply given to my unstarred question[1] No. 1308, will the Honourable Minister for Education please state how far the scheme for the water-supply of Dajal, Dera Ghazi Khan district, has materialised ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : A preliminary trial boring is being made and, if it is successful, the preparation of the scheme will be taken in hand.

ALIPUR MUNICIPALITY.

***167. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Govrenment please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that five seats for Hindus and four seats for Muslims (both elected and nominated) are fixed for Alipur Municipality in the Muzaffargarh district ;

(*b*) whether Dr. Charan Dass, a Hindu nominated member, has been transferred ;

(*c*) if so, how he proposes to fill the vacancy ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) No, the constitution of the Municipal Committee of Alipur is fixed at 9, of whom 7 are elected and 2 appointed by name or office. Of the 7 elected seats, 4 are Hindu and 3 Muslim.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The vacancy was filled by the Commissioner by the appointment of the Assistant Surgeon of the local Civil Hospital. In future, however, instead of two members " appointed by name or office " there are to be two nominated non-official members ; and, therefore, in place of the Assistant Surgeon the Commissioner will nominate a non-official with due regard to section 12 of the Note on the reconstitution of municipal committees and district boards in the Punjab.

[1]Vol. XIV, pages 180-181.

APPRENTICE ENGINEERS IN THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT.

***168. Sardar Buta Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) the number of apprentice engineers in the Hydro-Electric Branch of the P. W. D., at present, with their names date of joining the department, their qualfications, the date of their first appointment as a paid apprentice engineer and the time during which these apprentices have continued to work as paid apprentice engineers and the pay each one of them is now drawing;

(2) how many of these paid apprentice engineers have been so far promoted to the grade of an Assistant Electrical Engineer and what cadre, scale of pay and annual promotion has been proposed by the Chief Engineer for this post and what does Government intend doing in this connection ;

(3) whether it is a fact that an apprentice engineer in the other branches of the P.W.D. automatically becomes an Assistant Engineer after an apprenticeship of one year, and if so why it is not possible to extend this rule to the Hydro-Electric Branch of the P. W. D. ;

(4) whether it is a fact that the apprentice engineers in this Hydro-Electric Branch of the P. W. D. have received training in western countries and are in no way inferior to the apprentice engineers working in other branches of the P. W. D. ;

(5) if so, whether Government intend to take any steps to improve the prospects of the apprentice engineers working in the Hydro-Electric Branch ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (1) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to Council question[1] No. 43 of 1931.

(2) Three apprentice engineers have been offered appointments as Assistant Electrical Engineers but their formal acceptances have not been received. The Hydro-Electric Branch being a temporary one, the question of cadre does not arise. The scale of these posts is Rs. 250—20—750 and the annual increment is Rs. 20 per mensem.

(3) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to part *(b)* of Council question[2] No. 44 of 1931.

(4) In view of the answer given to part *(b)* of Council question[2] No. 44 of 1931 no comparison arises between the apprentice engineer of the Buildings and Roads and the Hydro-Electric Branches.

(5) Does not arise.

PROMOTION OF EXCISE INSPECTORS AS EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

***169. Sardar Buta Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Excise Inspectors that have been made Extra Assistant Commissioners since the remodelling of the Excise Department in its present form ;

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[1] Page 159 *ante.*
[2] Page 161 *ante.*

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(*b*) how many of the Excise Inspectors selected for and appointed to the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner were Hindus, Muhammdans and Sikhs, respectively ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that no Sikh Inspector of Excise has so far been selected to the post of an Extra Assistant Commissioner in spite of an assurance given by Mr. Townsend, I.C.S., Financial Commissioner in the Council session of the year 1926 ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that according to the rules now in force no Excise Inspector can be selected to the post of an Extra Assistant Commissioner ;

(*e*) if so, what other prospects Government intend to provide for the Excise Inspectors ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Eight.

(*b*) Hindus	2
Muhammadans	6
Sikhs	*Nil.*

(*c*) No assurance has ever been given. In reply to a similar question[1] No. 2481 in 1923 by S. Balwant Singh, Mr. Townsend, then Chief Secretary, only stated that the claims of Sikh Excise Inspectors would be considered along with others.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Government can make no promises of this nature.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF EXCISE.

***170. Sardar Buta Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that with effect from 1st April 1931, some new posts of Deputy Superintendents of Excise have been created ;

(*b*) if so, how many of these have so far been filled up ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a Christian gentleman who was junior to a senior Sikh Excise Inspector has been appointed a Deputy Superintendent of Excise ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Sikh Excise Inspector who has been superseded was recently made a Sardar Sahib in recognition of his good work in the Excise Department ;

(*e*) if so, what are the reasons for his supersession ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes. Two new temporary posts of Superintendents of Excise have been approved, subject to the vote of the Punjab Legislative Council.

(*b*) Both, provisionally.

(*c*) Yes, provisionally. The actual designation is Excise Superintendent.

(*d*) The question was one of selection, and not of supersession. The title of Sardar Sahib was recently conferred upon the Sikh Inspector.

(*e*) Does not arise.

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[1]Vol. V, page 5.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT—APPROVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY.

Mr. President : His Excellency has been pleased to approve of the election of Sardar Buta Singh as Deputy President.

THE PUNJAB ALIENATION OF LAND (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : I beg to introduce the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon ".

In doing so I should like to explain briefly the reasons which have necessitated the introduction of this amending Bill. You are aware, Sir, that the question of alienation of land belonging to agriculturists to non-agriculturists so far as the Punjab is concerned, first received the attention of the Government of India in the nineties of the last century with the result that eventually the enactment known as the Land Alienation Act was passed by the Imperial Council in the year 1900. Mr. Thorburn, a distinguished member of the Punjab Commission, made an enquiry into the indebtedness of the peasants in some portions of the Punjab and in particular the Rawalpindi division and found that land belonging to argiculturists was rapidly passing into the hands of non-agriculturists, and that this process of transfer which had been in progress for some time was rapidly assuming such dimensions that unless something was done to check it in time the peasant class of this province was in danger of being completely deprived of their only source of livelihood. The result of his enquiries and conclusions were submitted to the Punjab Government in the form of a report, which was forwarded by it, to the Government of India, with their own views and recommendations. The Government of India, it seems, was impressed by the data and the reasoning adduced by Mr. Thorburn in support of his plea for legislative action and eventually came to the conclusion that remedial measures of some kind were necessary to avoid a repetition of the unfortunate incidents which took place in Southern India, culminating in open riots, and necessitating the enactment of the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act. It was for these reasons—administrative and economic—that the Land Alienation Act was passed by the Imperial Legislative Council in the year 1900. The policy of this Government has been repeatedly declared in this House by my predecessor, and by me. We made it clear to the House that so far as this Government was concerned, it would not allow any encroachment upon or extension of the provisions of the Land Alienation Act. During the last twelve months or more two instances were brought to the notice of this Government which, it was alleged, seriously encroached upon the provisions of the Act and affected its efficacy in safeguarding the interests of the agricultural classes. One of these was a ruling given by the High Court with regard to the

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powers of a Receiver to sell the land of an agriculturist to another agriculturist in liquidation proceedings. Fortunately that ruling was subsequently upset by a division bench ruling and it is now no longer necessary to consider that question. But the other matter which is of greater importance, and of graver import, is the ruling given by another learned judge of the High Court to the effect that there was no bar under the Act to a temporary alienation of land beyond a period of 20 years and that the land of an agriculturist could be leased out for more than 20 years,—or for that matter for an indefinite period in execution of a decree of a civil court, to any person whether he is an agriculturist or not. Government has been giving careful consideration to this matter and has come to the conclusion that this ruling seriously endangers the efficacy of the Act, in protecting the interests of the agriculturists and is not in consonance with the spirit of the Act. As you are aware, the intention of the framers of the Act was to limit temporary alienations to a maximum period of 20 years, and in this connection I will read out a few relevant extracts from the notes and proceedings of the various officials and committees which dealt with the Land Alienation Bill at various stages, as these will be of interest to the House. Honourable Mr. Rivaz, who subsequently became Lieutenant-Governor of this province, and who steered the Bill through the Imperial Council.——

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit: Have we not outlived those primitive days?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Have we? In commenting upon Mr. Thorburn's report and the circular letter issued by the Government of India, Sir Charles Rivaz recorded the following remarks:—

> "As regards temporary transfers, I quite agree in the views expressed in paragraph 79 of the memorandum accompanying the Government of India Circular, and would absolutely prohibit all forms of mortgage except that form of usufructuary mortgage in which the mortgagee takes the land into his proprietary possession and enjoys its profits for a certain term (to be limited by law), on the expiry of which the land passes back into the hands of the mortgagor free from all encumbrance, both capital and interest having been liquidated. The limit should, I think be fixed at 15 years, that being the maximum term for which a Collector acting under Section 326 of the Civil Procedure Code, can make a temporary alienation of landed property in satisfaction of decree in this province."

It will be noticed, Sir, that he was in favour of a limit of 15 years instead of 20 years, which is now to be found in the Act, with regard to temporary alienations. The Honourable Mr. Tupper who, I believe, was Financial Commissioner at the time, however, considered that credit would be too much restricted by limiting it to 15 years, and recommended that the term should be fixed at 20 years. Mr. Tupper's view was supported by Sir William Macworth Young the then Lieutenant Governor of the province. The Governor-General in Council, however, was of opinion that 20 years was much too long a time for the purpose and he was in favour of the shorter term of 15 years. The matter was referred back to the Punjab Committee,

but, Sir William Macworth Young again endorsed Mr. Tupper's views, and recorded a minute to the following effect :—

"The limit of the term in which a debt should be extinguished by the usufructuary mortgage is fixed as 20 years, instead of 15 as suggested in the Government of India letter, and there is no provision for its being terminated *ipso facto* by the death of the mortgagor. The Committee also decided to allow the purely collateral mortgage, with a provision for converting it into a usufructuary mortgage of the kind permitted in clause (*a*) of the Resolution ; and to limiting leases to 20 years."

The Secretary of State for India in Council however did not agree with the view of the Punjab Government, and in referring the matter back to the Government of India wrote—

"With regard to temporary alienantions we accept the recommendations of the Committee except in one point. The Committee propose that the maximum for a usufructuary mortgage or lease shall be 20 years, and have not made the consent of the heirs necessary to a mortgage continuing beyond the life time of the mortgagor. We accept the Committee's conclusion that for the reasons stated in paragraph 9 of the Lieutenant-Governor's minute the consent of the heirs had better not be made a condition to the alienation of land. But we consider that *20 years is too long a term for mortgages and propose to reduce it to 15 years.*"

We consider that 20 years is too long a term for mortgage and propose to reduce it to 15 years.

The matter was again referred back to the Punjab Committee and Sir William Macworth Young again protested against the period being reduced from 20 to 15 years. He said :—

"I am not aware of the reasons which led the Government of India to reduce the term of mortgages and leases in Sections 6 and 7 of the Bill from 20 to 15 years. Opinions are almost unanimously now in favour of the longer period, and I adhere to the recommendations of the Simla Committee for this period——."

As a result of this strong recommendation of the Lieutenant Governor the select committee raised the period from 15 to 20 years. And the same has since been incorporated in the Act.

It is clear from the extracts which I have read that the Government of India were reluctant to go even beyond 15 years, and it was due to the pressure brought to bear upon it by the Punjab Committee that it agreed to the longer period of 20 years. I hope I have been able to make it clear to the House that the spirit of the framers of the law was to restrict all temporary alienations including leases and farms to a period not exceeding 20 years. It may be argued that if that had been their intention they could have inserted a specific provision to that effect in the Act itself. In reply to that contention, if it is made, I would say that they relied, as has been made clear in the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill, partly on statute and partly on established practice in civil law.

This matter was also discussed in a High Court Division Bench Ruling in 1919 from which it will be clear that the practice which the framers of the Act had in view was still in vogue even 19 years after the Act had been passed. I would, with your permission, Mr. President, read the relevant portion of the judgment and quote the exact words of the Honourable Judges who in I. L. R. 2 Lahore 78, *inter alia* remarked :—

"Now in the execution of decrees against the land of the indebted members of an agricultural tribe, who are often actually or practically insolvent, it has always been the practice sanctioned by this Court that the debt should be liquidated by a farm terminable after a reasonable period, and the maximum period for which a farm has been permitted is 20 years."

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It is, therefore, clear, that the framers of the Act were perfectly justified in relying on the established practice of the civil courts in the province and in presuming that this practice would be adhered to. As a matter of fact, it has been scrupulously followed till very recently, when a departure was made by some civil courts, which has since received legal sanction by the ruling of the High Court to which I have just referred.

Government has given this matter its careful consideration and has explored all avenues with a view to rectifying this deficiency if possible by other means and without having resort to an amending Bill. But after protracted and careful consideration, it has come to the conclusion that it is not possible to do so without amending the Act itself.

I should like to point out to the honourable members that the question before the House at the moment is not whether the Land Alienation Act is a useful and equitable enactment or not. The issue is whether an amendment of the Act is necessary with a view to safeguard the efficacy of the Act and whether this amendment is in consonance with the spirit of the Act as contemplated by its framers. That is the real issue before us, and I hope the honourable members, who I know hold strong views on the merits and demerits of this enactment, will only keep this issue in view in discussing this Bill. I may mention that the Government has no intention of rushing this Bill through as is evident from the motion which I have just made. We will be glad to receive and consider opinions from all quarters and from all sources. But I wish to reiterate once again, that so long as this Act remains on the Statute Book it is the considered policy of the Government to see that its efficacy remains unimpaired ; and it is for this reason, and with a view to restore the *status quo* regarding which I gave an undertaking to this Council during the Simla session that this amending Bill has been introduced.

There is however one direction in which the present amending Bill might perhaps be considered to go beyond the scope of the present Act. It will be noticed that the amending clause does not seek to differentiate between the agricultursists and non-agriculturists in the matter of temporary alienations which will be permissible in execution of decrees of the courts. It has often been alleged in this House and outside it that some big land owners and agriculturist money-lenders are taking undue advantage of the Act and are exploiting the poorer zamindars, and that something should be done to safeguard the smaller zamindar against the rapacity of the big zamindar and the agriculturist money-lender. (*Interruption*). I am not at the moment concerned with the veracity of these allegations, but if there is any substance in these charges the present amendment, if passed, would to some extent mitigate these complaints. I hope the agriculturist members of this House ; I refer to the members belonging to the notified agricultural tribes, will not object to this amendment on that score. There is no better way of repudiating these allegations and of showing the sincerity of their desire to protect the zamindars than by accepting this amendment which seeks to cramp the style of the agriculturist money-lenders and the rapacious big land owners, if there be any. With these words I commend the motion to the House.

Mr. President :

> "The Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

Chaudhri Ram Sarup [North-West Rohtak, Non-Muhammadan, Rural] (*Urdu*) : Sir, I just want to say one or two words with regard to the motion before the House. The object of this Billl is exactly the same as that of the Punjab Land Alienation Act. Section 6 of the said Act clearly lays down that the land belonging to a member of an agricultural tribe cannot be mortgaged for a period exceeding 20 years. But as Section 16 of the said Act is silent on the point, the Lahore High Court in a recent ruling held that a civil court can, in execution of a decree, order a temporary alienation of the land of a judgment debtor belonging to a statutory agricultural tribe for a period exceeding 20 years. This shows that the Act as it stands does not afford sufficient protection to the agriculturists. I, therefore, think that the Government have done well to introduce this Bill in the House which, I am sure, will remove the defect pointed out by the High Court. With these words I support the motion under consideration.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I may point out for the information of the House that the intention of Government is to move for the commitment of the Bill to a select committee, at the next session of the Council which I hope it may be possible to convene sometime in May next. Opinions received by that time will be available for consideration by the members of the select committee if they desire to consider them.

THE PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (EXECUTIVE OFFICER) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I beg to move—

> "That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be taken into consideration at once."

The history of this measure is fully known to the honourable members of this House. The idea of having a Chief Executive Officer in municipalities of larger sizes was mooted some eight or nine years ago, in 1922. A year or two thereafter, a draft Bill was prepared and opinions were invited thereon. The Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, important individuals, municipalities and even in some cases the chairmen of district boards were asked to give their opinions. A large number of opinions were received and classified by the Secretariat. After that a Bill was introduced by my Honourable friend, Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, in 1927. When that Bill was before the House, a motion was made that the Bill be circulated for eliciting

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public opinion. After a great deal of discussion in which a considerable number of honourable members of this House took part, the Honourable mover accepted that motion and the Bill was therefore once more allowed to be circulated for eliciting public opinion. That was in November 1927. After that the Bill was again circulated and copies of it were sent to various public bodies and to a large number of newspapers, bar associations, municipalities, both of the first and second class. Some opinions were received and classified. Under the directions of my Honourable friend who was then in charge of this portfolio, copies of the Bill were specially sent to a considerable number of honourable members of this Council asking for their opinions. I may just mention that the Bill had been referred to a select committee consisting of fifteen members of this Council, and with the exception of one honourable member, all had agreed to the amendments which were moved and passed in the select committee. Nevertheless, when it came before the House, in order to leave no room for any complaint or any grievance whatsoever, the Honourable Minister agreed to its circulation. Now, this Bill which has been introduced by me to-day is almost word for word the same as had been approved by the select committee consisting of fifteen members of this House. It contains almost to a letter all the recommendations made by the select committee. It has also got embodied in it the recommendations and suggestions made by important officials and some of the leading private gentlemen and organisations. It cannot therefore be said that the Government has not given sufficient thought and consideration to the matter. For the past six years or so,—if we do not take into consideration the period which elapsed before the idea was first broached by the Standing Committee on Local Self-Government in 1922 and the draft Bill—even then, the Bill has been more or less for six years before the public ; and it has been commented upon by all the leading newspapers of the province. Therefore no charge of haste or inordinate hurry can be brought against Government so far as this measure is concerned.

The next question then is whether a case has been made out for the promulgation of such an Act. My submission is that so far as the administration of municipalities in this province is concerned I for one would not say that I would expect perfection from them. I do not, just as I do not expect perfection from Government itself. No human institutions can be perfect. But between inefficiency and perfection there are several stages which one ought to traverse, and judged even from that humbler standard I am pained to say that the administration of the municipalities in this province has not given proof of that efficiency which one would expect from the representatives of the people on the local bodies without expecting anything extraordinary from them. I have during the last four months myself visited a number of municipalities, I have received a large number of petitions and a large number of complaints and from a perusal of the notes on the files which have been made available to me and from the petitions and the complaints that I have received and information that has been conveyed to me by private individuals and information which I have myself tried to collect, I must confess that I am not at all satisfied with the administration of some of the municipalities in this province. The report of Government for 1928-29 has been before the public and it has received a great

deal of criticism and comment at the hands of the public and at the hands of some municipalities. I would not go very far, I would only quote the instance of the premier municipality in the Punjab. Not long ago the criticism made by Government in its report on the working of the Lahore Municipality was made the subject of discussion in a number of stormy meetings held by the Lahore Municipal Committee. A considerable number of resolutions—no fewer than half a dozen—were sent by various members asking the Government in fact to institute an enquiry into the administration of the Lahore Municipal Committee. The difference of opinion among the members was not on the ground that no case for an enquiry was made out but the difference was only with respect to the points to which the enquiry should be confined. The climax was reached about a month ago when a discussion took place on an amendment moved by the President of the Committee himself. The question was debated for a long time and the division showed that the amendment was lost only by one vote—sixteen voting for it and seventeen against it. So far as my information goes among the 17 who voted against the amendment there were two members who when the amendment was moved had supported it but at the time of the division cast their vote against it. I also received a communication from one of the members of the Committee that the amendment ought to have been supported. There were some members who were absent about whom I have reason to believe that if they had been present they would have supported the President in the amendment moved by him. So that judging even from the division one would safely conclude that there were more members, taking the Committee as a whole, who were in favour of the amendment than those who were opposed to it. But even if there was an absolute majority against the amendment the fact that out of 33 members who were present 16 voted for it and only 17 against it shows that a strong case was made out by the supporters of the amendment. This is only one of the instances that could be quoted. From other places I receive complaints sometimes as to the dilatory tactics adopted by various members of the committees. Sometimes the complaints are made with respect to the negligence, sometimes about positive mismanagement, sometimes about jobbery, sometimes about actual misappropriation and sometimes allegations are made which certainly it would be very difficult for the members of the municipal committees to meet in a court of law. If the mischief or incompetency or inefficiency were confined to a single place, perhaps it could be argued that no case was made out for legislation, because Government would not make laws if the evil is not sufficiently great to justify legislation. But unfortunately in this case the evil is far more widespread than one would have thought. A large number of encroachments are made in most of the municipal towns and very seldom is notice taken of them. Bye-laws are disregarded and very seldom notice is taken of those who disregard bye-laws. Houses are sometimes, nay, I should say, quite often built without municipal sanction and notice is not always taken of them. When notice is taken the cases are too often compromised and the compensation which the municipalities claim from the law-breakers ranges very often from annas five to rupees five. These are instances which would be furnished by almost every important municipality in the province. Therefore my submission is that a remedy is called for. The only question is what that remedy should be. I may submit, Sir, frankly

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that I believe in self-government, that I believe in *swaraj*, that I believe in letting people manage their own affairs with one condition that with *swaraj* they should also have *suraj* which means good government. *Swaraj* means self-government and *suraj* means good government, and *swaraj* would not satisfy the requirements of a nation unless it also had *suraj* with it, and simply because we have placed our own elected representatives in those local bodies we should not connive at their mistakes, and the mal-administration prevailing in the various municipal bodies in our province. Interference therefore becomes necessary and the only question is what form that interference should take. Under the present law the control of Government is provided for in a number of sections of the Municipal Act, and the question is whether that control is sufficient to bring about greater efficiency in the administration of the committees. In chapter XII of the present Municipal Act in section 231 and the following sections are laid down the provisions for control by the Government.

"The Commissioner of the division or the Deputy Commissioner of the district may—

(*a*) enter on, inspect and survey, or cause to be entered on, inspected and surveyed, any immovable property within the limits of the division or district respectively occupied by any committee, or joint committee or any work in progress within those limits under its directions;

(*b*) by order in writing call for and inspect any book or document in the possession or under the control of any committee or joint committee having authority within the said limits;

(*c*) by order in writing require any such committee or joint committee to furnish such statements, accounts—."

Now this section and the following sections lay down the various ways in which Government control over municipalities can be exercised, but my submission is this that the Deputy Commissioners in this province, as Collectors in other provinces, are such busy officers that it is impossible to expect of them to go minutely into the affairs of municipal committees under their charge. As has very often been said in connection with the separation of executive and judicial functions, the Deputy Commissioner is the chief magistrate of the district, he is the collector of revenue, he is the head of the excise department, he is the head of the registration department, he is the head of the police, he is also the guardian of the wards in his district, and so on and so forth. There is not a department of administration in which the particular attention of the Deputy Commissioner is not required. Therefore to expect that the Deputy Commissioner would be able to find time to keep a vigilant eye on the administration of the municipal committees and to intervene whenever any mistake is made or any irregularity is committed or a misappropriation is committed is simply impossible. The Commissioners can touch the municipalities mainly through the Deputy Commissioners and the Government can touch the municipalities only through the Commissioners or the Deputy Commissioners, and my four months' experience has shown that sometimes over a simple matter not only weeks but months are taken. I give you one instance of the most important municipality in our province. A certain schedule was prepared in 1927. It was sent up. For four years nothing was done, and the result was that houses were being built in various parts of the city

in contravention of the schedule which the municipal committee had proposed. Either the committee went to sleep over it or nothing was done in the offices of the Deputy Commissioner or of the Commissioner for four years, until I came to know of it. I had then to move in the matter before any definite step could be taken. I am pointing this out not to show that there was any negligence or wilful delay so far as the Government offices or officers are concerned, but I am only pointing out by this instance that it is impossible for the Deputy Commissioners or Commissioners who have so much to do to keep a constant watch over the affairs of the municipalities under their charge. Something of a different character is therefore necessary and it was that idea as given by the standing committee of this House which led to the idea of an Executive Officers' Bill.

3 P.M.

I may point out that the idea of a Chief Executive Officer was not first conceived in the Punjab. I have gone through the speeches made by honourable members of this House on the previous occasion. One member was pleased to point out "Oh! why should the Punjab take the lead in this innovation? If this innovation is made in the Punjab, other provinces would follow." But by that time, in 1927, several provinces in India had had their executive officers and it was not an innovation in the Punjab which other provinces were to follow. I may also point out, Sir, that the idea of an executive officer is not inconsistent with either the self respect or the independence or the powers of a municipal committee. It should not be understood that the appointment of an executive officer would reduce the committees into powerless bodies. That is not at all the case. The relation of an executive officer to a municipal committee, if I may use an analogy, is the same as that of an executing court to a trial court. A trial court passes a decree and the executing court carries it out. The executing court, it is a trite maxim of law, cannot go an inch behind the decree of a civil court whether that decree is good, bad or indifferent, whether it is legal or illegal, the executing court has no say in the matter. It has simply to carry it out. The executive officer, as the various provisions of the Bill would show, would be nothing but the executing court, as it were, of the court of the municipality. He would be in the position of a *mukhtar* or a *gumashta* who would carry out the business on behalf of the principal. The power of the municipality to make rules, to levy taxes to deal with its funds and other important matters of administration would remain unimpaired. It is only to lighten the burden of the municipalities, to remove the dilatoriness and introduce promptness and to increase the efficiency of the municipalities that the Bill is being introduced and is now being discussed before this House. I may also submit that in case any member has sent up any amendments which would be calculated to protect the position and the rights of the municipal commissioners as such, I would be simply pleased, if the amendments appeal to the House, to have them incorporated in the Bill. I do not want to make the Bill an oppressive piece of legislation, a piece of legislation which is in any way going to impair either the power or the dignity of a municipal committee, but all that we want is that something should be done to increase the efficiency, to increase the promptness, the despatch in business and to lighten the burden of the municipal committees. There are very small things, sometimes which are required to be

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done by a municipal committee and unless the whole municipal committee meets the very smallest things sometimes cannot be done for days and days. Sometimes the members concerned find themselves in a most awkward position. I would not go to the length of saying that the elected members cannot show independence. Certainly that would be self-condemnation and I would not say that. There are honourable members, elected members who are independent, who do show their independence and who act in an upright and conscientious manner If they did not, the whole thing would have been reduced by this time to chaos and to utter confusion, but at the same time I cannot overlook the fact that the members sometimes find themselves in an awkward position. They have passed a resolution, the party affected by this resolution approaches one member and, members after all depend upon votes of their electors and they cannot help listening to what the party affected by a certain resolution has to say and sometimes I must say unfortunately, they succumb to the entreaties and appeals, of the party affected by the resolution and the result is that canvassing begins. That member then approaches another member and another member and then they approach some others and the result is that soon after a proposal comes for the re-consideration of the resolution that had been passed. If you take up the minute books of the various municipalities you will find that so many of the resolutions are set aside as a result of such canvassing. Now, if there is a small matter which has once been settled by the municipal committee and it goes into the hands of the executive officer the executive officer will see to it there and then, unless the executive officer is dishonest, and unless the executive officer is corrupt, he will be immune from the temptations and influences to which the elected members of a municipal committee are liable. Being more independent than the municipal commissioners themselves, so far as electors are concerned, he would be in a better position to carry out the resolutions of the municipal committee than the members themselves sometimes are. Looked at from this point of view the municipal commissioners should welcome this measure as a measure for their own protection and for their own relief because it would save them on many occasions from awkward positions. I would therefore, submit that from whatever point of view you may look at the matter a measure like the one which I have ventured to introduce is an absolute necessity. One more question might be raised in connection with the scope of the Bill and that is this that in the Bill I have mentioned only four municipalities out of a large number of municipalities in the province. I have acted on a definite line and that is this, that I have taken only four first class municipalities. (*A voice*: What about Simla?). There are a few more first class municipalities in the province but they are, I would submit, smaller in comparison with these four municipalities and they have special features about them. The first is Simla. Now, Simla, no one would deny, has a position of its own, a peculiar position. The two Governments, the Central Government and the Punjab Government are both represented there, they have their head-quarters there and the Governments there have a large amount of property for the protection of which they are naturally very keen and

anxious, and the result is that the administration of the Simla municipal committee, I speak without committing myself and not giving up my right to criticise it if occasion arises, the affairs of the Simla municipal committee are for peculiar reasons better looked after than the affairs of the other municipal committees where the Government has no direct control. Then there are other first class municipalities like Dalhousie and Murree. But they are first class municipalities by courtesy. No one would have dreamt that whereas Rawalpindi was a second class municipality, or Jullundur and Ludhiana were second class municipalities, Dalhousie would be a first class municipality. The reason why Dalhousie was constituted into a first class municipality, as I can understand, I have not yet looked at the history of it, was probably the fact that it was more or less a military station and it was therefore necessary from various points of view that it should be directly under the control of the Government. The same reasoning applies to Murree. That is an important military station. Now with some exceptions all the other municipalities in the province are second class municipalities and therefore I have not included any one of them, but you may have seen there is a clause in the Bill that the provisions of this law, might be made applicable to any other municipality by notification. There is another reason why the Bill is not being made of universal application. After all the idea of an executive officer so far as the Punjab is concerned is a new one. It has not yet been acted upon in any municipality in this province. In Calcutta, in Bombay, in Madras the idea of an executive officer is familiar to the people. I do not mean that this Bill is absolutely on the same lines as the Acts applicable in those places—

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Worse.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Worse or better, still all I mean to say is that it is a new idea and we do not want to try the experiment in all the places at once. We want to apply in the first instance to some important and first class municipalities and see how it works there and if we find that the law has brought about an improvement in the administration of these municipalities it would be applied to other municipalities. But if the honourable members of this House are anxious that it should be applied straightaway to some other municipalities, well they can send in amendments and the House can accept those amendments and then it will be made applicable at once to other municipalities as well. But it was considered that it would not be wise perhaps to apply the Bill straight off to all the municipalities in this province. Some of the municipalities will not be able to bear the burden of an executive officer. That would be another reason for not making it applicable at once to the smaller municipalities. But as I have submitted it was open to the members to send in amendments and those amendments which have been sent will be placed before the House. With these remarks and not taking any further time of the Council I would ask the House to take the Bill into consideration.

Mr. President :

The Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Owen Roberts [Nominated Non-Official] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion."

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, I beg to object to this motion, for it cannot be moved. I refer you to paragraph 83 of the Constitutional Manual, volume II, which reads :—

"(1) On the day on which any of the motions referred to in Article 81 above is made, or on any subsequent day to which the discussion thereof is postponed, the principle of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed, but the details of the Bill must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principle.

(2) At this stage no amendments to the Bill may be moved, but—

(*a*) if the member in charge moves that his Bill be taken into consideration, any member may move as an amendment that the Bill be referred to a select committee or be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by a date to be specified in the motion ;"

And this motion does not specify any date by which the opinion is to be elicited. Therefore the motion is out of order.

Mr. Owen Roberts : In the matter of specifying a date I did not at the time I wrote out the motion have the rules with me. I consulted the Secretary to the Council and he told me that he could not say off-hand whether I must specify a date but that if it was necessary I could do so later. I have not had time to talk with him later.

Mr. President : The honourable member can do so now. As the amendment can be moved without notice any honourable member may stand up and make an amendment specifying the date by which opinions might be elicited.

Mr. Owen Roberts : I shall fix the date as the 1st of May.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Is it only when the member in charge moves that the Bill may be referred to a select committee that a member may move as an amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by a date to be specified in the motion or is it open to any one to make the motion even when the member in charge of the Bill does not move for the Bill being referred to a select committee ?

Mr. President : The honourable member has to read paragraphs 83 with 82 of the Business Manual. Either of these motions can be made by any member of the House when the member in charge of the Bill moves that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Owen Roberts : I move—

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st May 1931."

In making this amendment I desire to avoid as far as possible all controversial points. The Honourable Minister in introducing the Bill has made certain statements which I feel if they are allowed to go unanswered are bound to prejudice the judgment of the Council. I am quite prepared to concede to him that Government has given ample consideration to this Bill. It has been before us in one form or another since 1925. But he is going to find it difficult to get away from the fact that even after the Bill went before the select committee in 1927 and came back to this Council Government was unable to persuade either this Council or the public that the Bill was a proper measure for the province. Then in regard to the necessity

for the Bill he told us that he had received innumerable complaints and representations from all over the place. He is not entitled to quote any of those representations or any of those facts except where they occurred in the case of the municipalities to which he proposes to apply this Bill. And I do not think he was very clear on the point. He referred to the report of the Commissioner on the working of the municipalities in the Punjab in 1928-29 and in that connection also made a reference to recent events in the Lahore Municipality. It is only right that the whole of the facts should be before the Council now. Attempts have been made by the Lahore Municipal Committee to endeavour to get a resolution passed asking Government to appoint a committee to go into the question of municipal administration as a whole with a view to make such modifications in the Act, the rules and the bye-laws and other matters that affect municipal administration. There have been two parties, as the Honourable Minister has pointed out, in this connection. They are both agreed on the necessity for a committee, but where they do not agree is that one side desires to take advantage of some perfectly unjustifiable language used in this report, and I will read the sentence to the House.

> "The Commissioner of Lahore finds that the control over establishment in Lahore is as bad as it could be, that there is corruption in every department and that systematic frauds have been brought to light, that new places were created and premature increments given without guaging the effect of the increased expenditure until at present nearly 50 per cent. of the Committee's income is spent on establishment to the detriment of other things such as sanitation and lighting."

I have been able to obtain a copy of this report only this afternoon and have not had time to go into all the figures. But to appreciate the value of the rest of the criticism I looked up the figures and found that public health absorbs Rs. 2,49,430 out of a total of Rs. 11 lakhs on establishment. (*Dr.* (*Mrs.*) *M. C. Shave*: With what results ?) I am not concerned with the results at the moment. I am concerned with the facts as stated in the report. Nor do I see how the result will be affected by the appointment of an executive officer. It seems to me that in writing a sentence like this the Commissioner appears to have lost sight of his own responsibility. If the facts in connection with this municipality are as he alleges, why did he not order an enquiry into "the corruption in every department and systematic frauds" ? The whole dispute between the two parties on the Committee to-day is this, that one of them has desired to take advantage of these words to ask the Committee to pass a resolution admitting it is corrupt and so on and asking Government to enquire into that corruption. I have never in my life heard of a more unintelligible position than that for any one to take up.

The Honourable Minister also gave us in detail what the result was of an amendment put forward by the President. That amendment was so worded that had the other side desired to do so they could have interpreted it to mean that the enquiry was to extend to the question of corruption. I put that question definitely at the time and I was told that that was the interpretation they put upon the amendment, and I therefore opposed it. (*The Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government*: You did not like corruption to be enquired into ?) I am very pleased to inform the Honourable Minister that I was the 17th vote. In fact the Press came and asked me if I was the 17th vote and I said, "yes".

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Then, the Honourable Minister told us about houses being pulled down without permission. I won der if the most recent case has been brought to his notice, the case of which so much was made in the '*Civil and Military Gazette*'. We were told of a shocking thing done by the municipality; of a house pulled down over people's heads. But the facts never got any further. The facts are that a gentleman, himself the President of a municipality in Shujaabad proceeded to build a house on a plot of land entirely against all the sanctioned plans.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: May I ask a question? Are we discussing the affairs of the Lahore Municipal Committee or are we discussing the motion of the Honou rable Minister for the consideration of this legislation?

Mr. Owen Roberts: Subject to your ruling on the matter, statements have been made likely to create prejudice. I feel so much prejudice may be created on the question by many of the remarks of the Honourable Minister that I have attempted to answer them but I shall come to the main subject and I may assure those members who desire it that they can have their curiosity satisfied on the other points. The main question is whether we can accept the principle of this Bill or not. I will ask honourable members in this connection—I have no intention of referring in detail to the clauses of the Bill—to refer to three of the clauses. The first is clause 4 (*c*). Here under cover of delegating powers to an executive officer, power is taken to make vital changes in the Municipal Act and the feeling that I have consulted is to the effect that the Municipal Act should not be amended in this way but that it should be brought directly before the Council and amended as an Act itself. Next I refer to the amendments in the schedule to the Bill. (*Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath*: They are only matters of procedure and detail.) They cover amendments as well as additions to the present Act. There is no question about it that there are vast amendments to the Act undertaken indirectly in this way.

The next clause to which I wish to draw your attention is 4 (*b*) (*ii*). Here the Bill provides:—

> "The exercise or discharge by the executive officer of any power, duty or function thus conferred, imposed or vested in him, shall be subject to such restrictions, limitations and conditions as may be imposed by any rules made by the Local Government under the Municipal Act upon the exercise or discharge of such power, duty or function by the committee."

Here you have an extraordinary state of affairs. You have an Act made subject to certain rules in the framing of which there is no provision for the municipal committee even to be consulted. The Honourable Minister may say that it will be consulted, but it need not be, and that condition alone seems to me to disclose what the intention of the Act is, and that is to deprive the municipal committees of their freedom and to hand the whole of the affairs of municipal committees into the hands of one individual. Coming then to clause 6 with its proviso, it gives the executive officer powers to select every person who renders any services on a contract to the municipality. It does not leave to the municipal committee the right of even selecting its own workmen. These powers are not powers that any of us are going to readily consent to hand over to one man. The Bill also fails to take notice of a broad class of matters all of which go to interfere witq

the efficiency of municipal administration and which will react against an executive officer in exactly the same degree more or less as they react against the committee. I refer to the financial control that committees suffer from. It is actually possible for an audit clerk to destroy the credit of a municipal committee if he desires it. The Municipal Committee of Lahore through its auditing arrangements has now got to a stage where it simply cannot carry on or make payment for a single article, and to get out of this difficulty the President is compelled—how he does it I do not know but he is compelled—to make personal advances to officers for all work done. I had to act for him a few months ago and I was asked to give an advance of Rs. 5,000 to a particular officer. I refused to do it and they told me that if I did refuse, the whole of the municipal work would come to a standstill. I said: Very well, let it be so, if it must come to a standstill. I looked at the papers and found that the ordinary staff had not been paid for six or seven months, that bills had been prepared and that on one device or another the audit clerk, a man drawing a couple of hundred rupees a month had been refusing to pass them. *The Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government*: Then you are supporting the Bill.) I cannot understand how his own executive officer or anybody else is going to carry on under those conditions. I made enquiries, sent for the papers and had all the parties in front of me. I took up bills more than six months old and asked the audit officer why they had not been passed. He said: This column of figures has been added since the bill was made. I asked him why he thought so and he had no ground to give. Literally the staff had not been paid for six months.

Mr. E Maya Das: On a point of order. Can a member oppose a certain motion and give arguments in favour of it?

Mr. President: Why not?

Mr. Owen Roberts: The Honourable Minister has reason to ask to be saved from his friends. Now, Sir, that is one case of what the financial restrictions on the municipality can do. I will give you shortly two others and they are both specific cases. A bill was presented by the Medical Officer of Health for Rs. 9 which was the charge for each of two tubes which had something to do with diphtheria. The audit clerk refused payment on the ground that the price was too high. The matter was brought to me. I consulted by telephone in his presence two chemists on the Mall and they both gave me the price as Rs. 9. He then said that he could get it cheap at Anarkali and I found it was quite true. I went round to both these chemists and after careful enquiry found that Rs. 9 was a reasonable charge having regard to the fact that this article can only be kept for a limited period in this country and is liable to perish. I looked into the chemist's figures and found that Rs. 9 was only a reasonable charge. Whether the other man at Anarkali had got some old stock and wanted to get rid of it or not is another story, but here you have an audit clerk questioning the judgment of a technical officer. Apparently he can do it and there is nothing to stop him. And yet on the other side I was presented with a cheque to sign for Rs. 25 being the charge for a cap to be worn by the driver of the fire engine. The audit clerk saw nothing wrong in buying a cap for Rs. 25 for the driver of the fire engine. When I asked him where he thought the Commander-in-Chief would go in for a similar cap he did not reply. This

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is the kind of thing that interferes with the efficiency of municiapl administration. It is not going to be improved and it is not going to bes topped by a bill of this sort.

I may appear inconsistent. When this legislation was before the House in 1927 I supported the principle of the Bill, but I objected to many of its forms. To-day I have altered my opinion. I am convinced that if we can amend the Act and if we can go into all the conditions surrounding municipal administration in the province with a committee, it will be possible to evolve something in which the executive officer will not be necessary. I am quite certain that there is a great feeling against an executive officer and I am not at all convinced that an executive officer is necessary if we can only get proper regulation in all matters. On this point I may quote the opinion of a distinguished member of the select committee on the previous Bill. It is from a note of dissent signed by my honourable friend opposite, Mr. Labh Singh.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : He has changed his views.

Mr. Owen Roberts : He may have changed his views, but he has converted me. He says :—

"The Bill as originally drafted and even in the form in which it emerges from the select committee is in essence a more or less complete abrogation of the existing system of municipal administration. I regard it as incorrect both in principle and procedure that such a complete and revolutionary change in the law should be made in such an unobtrusive way."

It was then much in the same form as it is now before us.

"I am not satisfied that there is evidence to show that the existing system has so utterly failed as to deserve to be abolished root and branch. If municipal corporations are to serve as training grounds for self-government, direct responsibility for good administration should continue to remain vested in the elected representatives of the people."

(*Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit:* Hear, hear). I hope my honourable friend who says "hear, hear" will support me when he speaks on the motion. (*Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit*: Yes, I will.) I feel that the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government has a great opportunity in front of him. He has an opportunity to bring about real reform in the municipal administration not by bringing in a Bill of this sort and by altering the Act in this objectionable way, but by appointing a committee and going into the merits of the question thoroughly and devising a system which will do him and the province credit. I may quote a few words from the Government's Administration Report of the Municipalities for 1928-29—

"Government cannot regard the picture that is painted with equanimity. For some years past it has been brought home to Government with added force every year that the control exercised by the Ministry of Local Self-Government over the administration of local bodies is not what it should be if these bodies are to share in the general administrative progress of the province."

I invite the Minister for Local Self-Government to do his work and not to attempt to evade it by appointing executive officers.

Mr. President : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 1st May."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Sir, I am very glad to-day to see my old colleague sitting just in front of me over there. We have fought many battles—right royal battles—shoulder to shoulder and there has always been a certain unity of ideas between us. But on occasions we have also fought with each other showing thereby that though there were many points of agreement there were not lacking points of difference also. But we have to see whether Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang of 1931 is the same person as Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, of 1924. That will be clearly proved by his conduct as Minister to-day and to-morrow in connection with this Bill. Saying is one thing, believing is another thing and doing is an entirely different thing. It is only by the Minister's actions that we are going to judge him.

This Municipal Officer Bill is an unfortunate Bill. It was brought forward by the Honourable Minister for Education who was then Minister for Local Self-Government. When he brought that Bill forward he had not been in office six months ; but the present Minister for Local Self-Government who has brought forward this Bill has not been in office for four months before doing it. He has been speedier than his predecessor.

We had a bureaucratic system of Government in the Punjab in the old days and the will of the people was never given effect to by the Government. But now though the system of Government has changed the effect is practically the same so far as the people are concerned. The Ministers who are the representatives of the people have the same ideas and use the same expressions as their bureaucratic predecessors. They do not express the will of the people at all.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I am giving expression to the will of the people. Go out and ask them and they will tell you.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : It is not the real will of the people ; it may be the will of the people in the Upper Mall. That is the proper place for the Honourable Minister. There has been a change of scene. And with the change of scene Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, has also changed. He does not now hold the same views which he held before the change of scene. His ideas have radically changed since the formation of the present Ministry.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I never opposed the old Bill.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Yes, you actually kept quiet ; you were never enthusiastic about the Bill.

What does it mean when an Honourable Minister like Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, who has been in this House for seven years does not open his lips to speak about a Bill like this ? Does it not show that he was not enthusiastic about it ? If really he had thought that this Bill was a good Bill, should he not have shown some enthusiasm at least on that occasion ? On the other hand he kept quiet. That does not show that he was in favour of the Bill. It is cleart hat he was not in favour of the old Bill introduced by the Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon. I am also against the Bill in a certain way and I will come to the point immediately. (*Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :* After

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]
20 minutes of speech.) The Honourable Member for Hoshiarpur interrupts me. However *hoshiar* he may be, I will tell him that his interruptions will have no effect on me. If there is any time limit imposed on me I shall be glad to confine myself strictly to that. I know that the honourable member from Hoshiarpur is out and out a supporter of this Bill, but I can assure him that I am not going to oppose this Bill because it has been introduced by my Honourable friend over there. I read this Bill, this blue-book when it was first introduced by my Honourable friend, Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, and I then made a speech covering eight pages. After reading it again I have to say that I stand by every word of what I said on that occasion, namely, that this Bill has not been properly considered by the very persons to whom it is going to apply. There is a difference between the people of this country and people of countries like England. In England when a new scheme is put forward the people begin to attack and criticise it from the outset, but here in India it is all different. They sleep over the matter till the Bill is passed into law and then begin their agitation. They do not take the matter seriously right from the beginning. Have we not seen what has happened in connection with the Sarda Bill ? My honourable friends here were all sleeping over the matter till the Bill was passed by the Assembly and the moment it was passed they began to agitate. In the same way, it is not correct to say that the people are not opposed to the Bill now under discussion here, because they have not held any meetings in mosques, temples or gurdwaras to condemn the Bill. I said that the Amritsar Municipal Council is against the Bill, but the Honourable Minister said that the Municipal Council never spoke a word against the Bill. The position is this. The municipal councils to whom the Bill will not apply are all in favour of the Bill, but the moment you tell them that the Bill will apply to them also they will at once revise their opinions and oppose the Bill. They often support readily Bills which they are sure will not apply to them. When the old Bill was under circulation I asked a high officer of the Amritsar Municipality whether he received a copy of the Bill. He said he had not received a copy. I asked the secretaries of two very important bodies and they also said they had not received copies of the Bill. In the short time at my disposal I was not able to ask more persons, but I am sure if I had asked them they would have given the same reply. The point is the old Bill was not widely circulated for eliciting opinion. The opinion of the very people who were concerned with the Bill was not invited. The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon, introduced the Bill and then said that he was ready to withdraw the Bill. He did not afterwards proceed with it. I wonder in what way this Bill is different from its predecessor. In what single point is it changed ? I may tell you that this Bill has become much worse than the original Bill which went to the select committee. But the funniest thing now is this. I do not want to accuse my Honourable friend that he intentionally treats the House like this, but he has never attempted to circulate this Bill at all.

About one-half or three-fourths of the members are new. They do not know the wretched history of this Bill. The subject is probably in the portfolio of Mr. Marsden, but I wonder whether even he has taken the trouble to study the Bill and whether even he knows the checkered history

of the Bill. This Bill was handed over to us on Friday evening at 4-30 or 5. We sat in this House up to 6-30 and then we had to attend a committee meeting up to 7. We were asked to send in amendments up to Saturday.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: No, they can be sent in even now.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: You may be kind enough now to accept them even now, but anyhow according to the rule I could not send them after 3 o'clock on Saturday. Does the Honourable Minister really think that people had no business other than that of studying the Bill and looking up a certain number of municipal books and then sending in amendments? Is it right on the part of a gentleman who is a custodian of the rights of people to treat us like that? Before he became a Minister whenever a Bill came up, he used to say that he did not have ample time to study it and that it was being hurried. He did so, for instance, in the case of the Pure Food Bill. And yet those sentiments have left him now that he has gone to the Government benches, and he thinks that twelve hours are sufficient for this House for the purpose of sending in amendments to the Bill. As I have said before the Bill was handed to us on Friday evening at 4-30. There was no time for us to consult each other or to consult our municipalities.

Mr. E. Maya Das: I received my copy about fifteen days ago.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: You are a special case. You are a nominated member, and as such you have special privileges. I got my copy on the 27th. The *Gazette* was published on the 23rd and I received my copy of it in Amritsar on the 27th. I think there should be an Executive Officers' Bill for the post office also. I am not the Postmaster General, neither am I in-charge of the post office, nor have I got aeroplanes. I got it on the 27th and knowing the mentality of my friends that they would pester me I carefully preserved the cover bearing the post mark.

Now, I want to say that whilst making a very nice speech the Honourable Minister reminded me of the clever lawyer who can be made to speak on any side. He does not even know whether he has to speak for the respondent or for the complainant. He just asks for which side he has to speak and off goes his speech. If he were asked to speak for his opponent he would be able to give an equally good speech. The same is the case with the Honourable Minister. If he had been on this side of the House, I can assure you that he would have made a similar attack, perhaps a worse attack.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I had never attacked this Bill.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: You have attacked other Bills which have come up before this House (*laughter*). I am only speaking of your mentality.

Mr. President: May I ask the honourable member not to be personal?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: It is not an attack. It is merely a reminder, simply because these friends are going to get up and say that I am opposing the Bill.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit: Your function is always to oppose.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : That is a habit with the honourable member from Hoshiarpur himself. Now, Sir, look at the speech of my Honourable friend. I agree with every word of his that something must be done to correct the irregularities or something which is going on in the municipalities. I am at one with him that certain powers which now lie with the municipalities should be taken away. I know that *garbar* is going on in the municipalities. I do not mean to say that you should launch a new Act, at a time when we are entering a new era of reforms, which does not increase the powers of municipalities. It might be helpful if the Honourable Minister had shown me the paper which he is waving in his hand.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I shall accept the amendment as to reference to a select committee if a date is fixed. Perhaps the honourable member will now cut short his speech and finish.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I will come to that. What is it he says? He says that we want to have a *gumashta*, that means another dictator—.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member inclined to take into consideration the fact that the member in charge of the Bill is prepared to have it referred to a select committee ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I shall cut short my speech. Now, I am very glad that my honourable friend has accepted my amendment for the select committee. That is the only attitude that one could expect from a reasonable gentleman like him who has not forgotten that really we are not fighting simply for the sake of opposition, but that we are fighting for the rights of our people. We want that the Municipal Act which touches our every day life should be amended in such a manner that it should be helpful in carrying on the self-government and should in no way retard it. I request my friend to take up the suggestion of my friend, Mr. Owen Roberts, which is absolutely sound and is very important. He was the first man who took up the position that some sort of a committee should be appointed to go through the whole municipal administration. We are tired of the old ways. Everything goes to the Deputy Commissioner. He is the man who deals with matters beginning from birth to death. He has absolutely no time to attend to municipal matters. Why should he who has got to deal with judicial functions and executive functions and who has something to do with everything and who has a finger in every pie, why should he be expected to have anything to do with matters municipal ?

I want the Honourable Minister to bring in a Bill which will establish a regular system in municipal administration. Since the Honourable Minister has accepted my amendment, I will say nothing more.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Minister for Education) : Sir, I was in charge of Local Self-Government for the last four years, and after going fully through the records and history of the various municipal administrations I came to the conclusion that time had arrived when executive officers should be appointed in local bodies. With a view to achieve effective administration of affairs in the local bodies I, with the advice of certain gentlemen, drafted a Bill which came before this House. That Bill

was circulated several times. It was brought before the House and discussed. I circulated it in the press particularly. It was referred to a select committee and we tried to accept all the useful suggestions and the Bill again came before the House. The Bill was not taken into consideration although the honourable members on the Unionists benches opposite were willing to support the Bill and would have welcomed the Bill, the honourable members now sitting on the benches on my right did not give me their mind as to whether they would support the Bill or not. They could not make up their mind even though I requested them several times to do so. I am grateful to some of the honourable members who have opposed this motion and said that the passing of this Bill might be a sort of slur on me because I could not get it through the House and some other Minister is able to do it. I am grateful to them for their tender thoughts, but let me assure them that there is no such feeling in my mind. As a matter of fact as soon as my Honourable colleague came into office, one of the first things that I told him was that though I did not succeed in persuading the honourable members of his party to support the Bill, I hope he will succeed in doing so and I am glad to see that he has at last succeeded in persuading his friends to make up their minds and to give their support to this measure. I, for one, welcome the coming of this measure before this House. As a matter of fact if the House will permit me I will just read a few lines from the speech made by the leader of our party, Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, on the 22nd of September 1927 in this House. The Rao Bahadur said as follows :—

> "Sir, some of the members who spoke a few minutes ago have complained, and complained bitterly, though wrongly, that adequate opportunity has not been given to the House or to the public in general to discuss this Bill. I think after the narration of the facts by the honourable member Mr. Beazley, it ought to be clear to everybody that more time has been given to this Bill than to any other Bill that has come before this Council during the last five years. Even the Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill comes only next to this Bill. This Bill has been discussed before so many special committees; it has been published in the official *Gazette* ; it has been referred to past presidents of municipal committees and it has been commented upon in the press. There is absolutely no reason why this Bill should now be circulated for any further elucidation of public opinion."

This was said in 1927 and this is the year of grace 1931.

> "My own opinion is that it will be sheer waste of time to circulate this Bill over again I may just draw the attention of the House to the fact that before this Bill came for discussion in the July session, it was published in the *Gazette* of 22nd July. I doubt whether any members who have shown so much heat to-day took the trouble of addressing a single line either to the Honourable Minister or to the press. If so much apathy has been shown by the members of this House who are all educated, I do not think any useful purpose will be served by circulating the Bill over again and my humble poinion is that the Bill should be taken into consideration in this session and passed."

On this there were loud cries of "hear, hear."

So the argument advanced by Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, the leader of the party in the year 1927, applies with greater force to-day. All that I suggest is that this is a useful measure. If any member of the House wishes any

4 P.M.

[Hon. Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.]
amendment to be made it can be considered by the select committee. The whole question is whether the Bill is a good one or a bad one. If it is bad, reject it, if it is good, do proceed with it. My hope is that the House will allow the Bill to proceed. At this stage to suggest that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion means shelving the Bill for no useful purpose. I think the time has arrived when the House should finally make up its mind over this Bill, and I hope their mind will be in favour of the Bill, because it is a useful measure. If it requires any amendment, that will be made in the select committee stage.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I wish just to say a few words because the amendment has not been withdrawn. I am very thankful to my Honourable colleague for the few words that he has said in support of my motion and against the motion moved by Mr. Owen Roberts. He was very frank and admitted that he had changed his mind. In fact, I wanted just to refer to his opinion which he had expressed as long ago as 1925 and I want to ask him whether he had since changed his mind. This is what he said then. It will be interesting and instructive to know the opinion of such an important municipal commissioner. I am quoting from the *Tribune*, dated 11th August 1925.

> "Mr. Owen Roberts supported the proposal and deprecated the attempt to make it look like a racial measure. The Bill would not deprive the municipality of its honour or prestige or power, but simply provides for the appointment of a special officer to do things which the whole committee could not satisfactorily and conveniently do."

These are the very words I had used in asking this House to consider the Bill and my honourable friend was at some pains to point out that one of the members who sat on the select committee had changed his opinion and quoted from his note of dissent. My submission is that circumstances since 1927 have not been such as to make a member change his opinion against the Bill. Circumstances have arisen and the history of municipal administration during the last four years shows that if a change of view is to come it must be in favour of the Bill and not against it ; so that, Mr. Labh Singh has ample material before him, and therefore ample justification to change his opinion. He has seen what has happened in this province so far as municipal administration is concerned during the last four years. Can my honourable friend, Mr. Owen Roberts, say that municipal administration during the last four years has made such progress and such improvement and has become so perfect that the very idea of having an Executive Officer Bill is antiquated and is absolutely uncalled for ? I can quite understand Mr. Owen Roberts saying that the municipal administration is so improved, municipal commissioners have become so competent, they give so much more time than they used to give before, they have become so much more honest than they used to be before, they have become so such more patriotic and public spirited that municipal administration is now on the way to improvement and therefore no interference by means of legislation like this is called for. He said nothing of the kind. There is absolutely nothing of the kind. He, in fact, quoted instances which went to show that such a measure was a prime necessity of the times and the interruption which my

friend over here (Mr. Maya Das) made, though it was technically speaking not in order, was intended to show that Mr. Owen Roberts was himself citing instances that had taken place in the province since 1927 which rather made it all the more obligatory for the Government to bring forward such a measure. If there was to be any change of opinion, those who were opposed to the Bill then should now be strongly in favour of it, because the times call for such a measure. I am very much indebted to my honourable friend from Amritsar. He, in his usual facetious way, gave more atten ion to personalities than to the points. (*Interruption*). I am very much indebted to him, because he has supported me to this extent that he is in favour of having a measure; and his only difference with me is with respect to the contents of the Bill, with respect to the provisions that this Bill should embody. He complained that sufficient time had not been given. Of course, the idea that the Bill should be circulated for public opinion is simply, with due deference to the honourable member, ridiculous. For nine years the idea has been before the public. Not an important individual, not an important society, not an important paper has been left in the province that has not expressed its opinion one way or the other. Whom are we now to consult? Are we to dig up dead people from their graves and consult them? Dilatory motions are brought forward for some purpose, so that if a certain measure has not received sufficient attention, the public might have an opportunity to express its opinion. But how often is the Government to consult the people? As I pointed out, the Bar Associations, newspapers, Hindu Sabhas and Muslim Anjumans and all the municipalities both first and second classes have already been consulted. If people outside the province are to be consulted, well, we have got the enactments in force in those provinces and they may be consulted. This is the proper and sane position to take up, and not a position of obstruction to the measure.

As I was saying, if the complaint is made that sufficient time has not been given to the members for consideration of the provisions and sending in amendments there may be some justification for this complaint. I thought that as the Bill had been before the public and before the honourable members for a long time and particularly before my honourable friend from Amritsar, the House should be ready to have it passed at once, because the necessity is so great and any time that is allowed to lapse, will really make matters worse. (*Interruption.*) Even one month will make matters worse. Even a few days will make matters worse. I will tell you how. I have given some instances and I do not want to multiply them. You cannot afford to waste even a day. The sooner it is passed the better it would be. But I have conceded with pleasure that the Bill may be referred to a select committee. I have asked my friend, Mr. Marsden, to bring forward an amendment to that effect and it will be placed before the House in proper time after the amendment now before the House is withdrawn or disposed of. I still expect that Mr. Owen Roberts will be pleased to withdraw his amendment as it will serve no useful purpose.

Mr. Owen Roberts: I am not prepared to agree. Am I not entitled to reply to the remark of the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government?

Mr. President : No.

Mr. Owen Roberts : I should like to offer a word of personal explanation.

Mr. President : The honourable member is welcome to make a personal explanation.

Mr. Owen Roberts : The only explanation I wish to give is this. The views that I had expressed in 1927 have changed with the experience that I have since had. I had not then been responsible for the working of the Municipal Act and I saw the abuses without being able to appreciate the reasons that led to these abuses but I have now had some experience and have therefore changed my opinion. I am prepared to withdraw my amendment provided the Honourable Minister agrees that the select committee should report in next session of the Council. That will give us time.

Mr. President : When the motion to refer the Bill to select committee is made the honourable member may raise this point. Just now, the question is whether he is prepared to withdraw his own amendment or not.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : May I put a question to the Honourable Minister? In case the select committee is appointed, when will the report be presented to the House, this session or the next session?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : This session.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member not prepared to withdraw his amendment?

Mr. Owen Roberts : Not on the assurance given by the Honourable Minister.

Mr. President : Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

> "That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st May next."

The question is that that amendment be adopted.

The Council divided: Ayes 18; Noes. 53.

AYES.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan.
Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Pir Akbar Ali.
Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan.
Chaudhri Ram Sarup.
Sardar Mohindar Singh.
Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Sardar Sampuran Singh.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.
Malak Muhammad Din.
Chaudhri Nazir Husain.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah.
Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof.
Mian Nurullah.

NOTES.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Gill.
Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
Rai Bahadur Lala Rattan Chand.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Dr. (Mrs). M. C. Shave.
Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Janmeja Singh.
The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.
Mr. P. Marsden.
Sir George Anderson.
Mr. F. H. Puckle.
Mr. L. B. Holland.
Mr. J. B. G. Smith.
Mr. J. W. Hearn.
The Honourable Sir Henry Craik.
The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.
Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl Ilahi.
Mr. S. L. Sale.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri.
Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.
Mr. Sajan Kumar Chowdhry.
Lala Nihal Chand, Aggarwal.
Thakur Pancham Chand.
Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan.
Lala Chetan Anand.
Lala Gopal Das.
Chaudhri Nathwa Singh.
Lala Bhagat Ram.
Lala Ramji Das.
Honorary Lieutenant Khan Sahib Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Khan Sahib Makhdum Shaikh Muhammad Hassan.
Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.
Mian Nur Ahmad Khan.
Chaudhri Riasat Ali.
Khan Sahib Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan.
Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani.
Rai Jagdev Khan, Kharal.
Maulvi Imam-ud-Din.
Shaikh Abdul Ghani.
Sardar Mohan Singh.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh.
Honorary Lieutenant Sardar Ragbhir Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sheo Narain Singh.
2nd-Lieutenant Sardar Ram Singh.
Guru Jaswant Singh.

Mr. P. Marsden : (Secretary, Transferred Departments) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following members with the request to submit their report by the 12th March 1931 :—

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang ;

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon ;

Mr. Labh Singh ;

Mr. Din Muhammad ;

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal ;

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram ;

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh ;

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq ;

Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave ;

Mr. S. L. Sale ;

A nominee of the Honourable President ; and the Mover."

[Mr. P. Marsden.]

Most of the honourable members have agreed that there is no need for any longer delay in this matter. Some honouarble members have shown, one in particular, what extraordinarily close knowledge they have of the Bill and it has already been explained by two Honourable Ministers how the present Bill has already been criculated several times for opinion and that the present Bill resembles closely the Bill which was considered by the select committee and there are very few changes made from the recommendations of the select committee. One of the chief points is that the Bill can be extended to all municipalities instead of to all first class municipalities. All the changes are simple, and the Bill is as fairly succinct as possible and there is no reason why there should be any very great delay. At the same time while there seems to be no need for delay, it is quite clear that the problem ought not to be postponed. Any one who reads the annual reports on municipalities and any one who goes through some of the audit notes on municipalities and anyone who has been connected with municipal administration as an executive officer—as I till recently have been, and in that connection have looked at the position of local Self-Government sometimes with pessimism and sometimes with despair—I am sure every one of those must realise what a very urgent problem it is and how it would be a very great misfortune to postpone it, or even to shelve it as some honourable members clearly want. It was stated by one honourable member that the importunate Mr. Labh Singh some three years ago complained that the Act was being amended in an unobtrusive manner. At any rate nobody can now complain that it is now unobtrusive. It has certainly been discussed and criticised by a great number of people and I think it can no longer be called a hole and corner affair or an unobtrusive Bill. One honourable member criticised the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government for introducing the Bill only four months after taking over the reins of office. After all the Honourable Minister did not sink into the Ministry as an innocent babe in swaddling clothes (*hear, hear*). He came with a very intimate knowledge of the matter and has been closely connected with the Bill and it is a very great credit and the House should be grateful to the Honourable Minister for being able to introduce this Bill and polish it and have it presented to the House within such a short period. With these words I move the amendment (*hear, hear*).

Mr. President :—

"The Punjab Municipal (Executlve Officer) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following members with the resquest to submit their report by the 12th March 1931 :—

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang;

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon;

Mr. Labh Singh;

Mr. Din Muhammad;

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal;

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram;

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh;

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq;

Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave;

Mr. S. L. Sale;
A nominee of the Honourable President; and
the Mover."

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhottu Ram : I propose that Mr. Owen Roberts' name may be added.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Then add one more also to make the total number more than 13.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : It has proved an unlucky number before. We may have Maulvi Sir Rahim Bakhsh.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I propose Lala Chetan Anand's name. He is a member of an important municipal committee of Multan.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Certainly.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I have no objection.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I want to substitute the 1st May for the 12th March 1931. Now, Sir, my friend said that I always indulge in personalities. I do not know if I do so, but if I do so it is because I am sitting in a place where he used to sit and probably I have caught the contagion from him, otherwise there is no reason why I should do so. This attitude of my friend that he wants to return this Bill after discussing it in the select committee by the 12th March is, I think, most unreasonable. It is true that if it were possible for us to do so we must do, but the more we go through this Bill the more I am convinced that it would not be possible to do so. In fact when I submitted my amendments I attached a note to it saying that the time was very short. There are so many amendments that it is impossible for the select committee to go through them by the 12th. The Council would be sitting all the time during these days. My friend must remember that he is a Minister and it is his job to do this work, but people who have other business to do cannot attend to this work day in and day out.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Have 15th March.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I cannot understand this bargaining. The Honourable Minister and other Government members have their office here and have to be present. As for us, we have to be in the Council from 2 to 6 P. M., and if the Honourable Minister proposes to engage us during spare time on these days it would be putting us to considerable inconvenience. I propose the 1st of May.

Mr. President : The 1st May is beyond 2 months from the date of the publication of the Bill in the *Gazette*. Therefore, in view of paragraph 86 (2) of our Business Manual, the amendment has no force.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I will then suggest by the 15th of April.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : We shall be agreeable to 15th of March.

Shaikh Muhammd Sadiq : I would make it 'not earlier than the 15th of April. My only object is that there may be time for thoroughly discussing the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : If my learned friend is agreeable that the report of the select committee should be considered in this session, then he can fix any day which would make that sure. Seven days must elapse between the receipt of the report and the consideration of the Bill here. The latest date would therefore be the 15th of this month. If that date is agreed upon, we shall have no objection. Otherwise we shall stick to the 12th. I am prepared to extend the time by three more days. That gives 12 days at our disposal and an hour a day for three or four days will enable us to finish the task. I may just point out that of the 15 members proposed for the select committee all agreed except one and even that member is now agreeable. It means that there is hardly any difference among the 15 members who will compose the select committee.

I move—

"That the report shall be submitted by the 15th March 1931."

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I think a very clear case has been made out by the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government for taking some sort of action and the action proposed is in the nature of the appointment of an executive officer. I fail to understand certain efforts in certain sections of the House to put it off. If they really think that a case has been made out and they want some measure of this sort I think the sooner we have it the better. If really they are of opinion that any such legislation is quite unnecessary and that it would not be acceptable ultimately to the House, it is better that efforts are not wasted in this way. I wholeheartedly support the amendment which is very reasonable that the report should be submitted by the 15th of this month so that the Bill might be considered in this session. I may point out, moreover, that though the Bill was circulated in time, and most of the members had ample time to propose amendments, the number of amendments so far tabled is only 12. (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq* : We had no time.) Of these 12, eleven are in the name of the honourable member from Amritsar. To the best of my belief if all these amendments were gone through at a meeting of the select committee, it would hardly take more than a couple of hours. If this is all that is to be done by the select committee, to say that the select committee shall submit its report next month does not carry much weight. I support the amendment proposed by the Government.

Mr. President : I propose to put the personnel of the select committee and the date by which it should submit its report separately.

The question is—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following members :—

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang ;
The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon ;
Mr. Labh Singh ;
Mr. Din Muhammad ;

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal;
Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram;
Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh;
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq;
Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave;
Mr. S. L. Sale;
A nominee of the Honourable President;
Maulvi Sir Rahim Bakhsh;
Mr. Owen Roberts;
Lala Chetan Anand; and
the Mover."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the select committee should submit its report by the 15th of March, 1931."

The motion was carried.

The Council adjourned till 2 P.M., on Friday, 6th March 1931.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, 6th March 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Zamindars in the Kangra district.

***171. Thakur Pancham Chand :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that in the Kangra district the holdings are very small and the incidence of population on the cultivated area heavy ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Government has granted only 35 squares to the zamindars of the district ;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) above is in the affirmative, what further steps Government proposes to take to ameliorate the condition of the poor zamindars of the district ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The 35 rectangles referred to were only peasant grants in the Nili Bar Colony. Recently 12 squares in the Lyallpur extensions have been allotted to zamindars of the district and 40 rectangles in the Renala Lift area. Out of the latter grantees, however, one grantee has asked for permission to surrender his grant owing to the severity of the climate of the South-Western Punjab. Prior to these more recent distributions considerable areas had already been granted at an earlier stage both on the Lower Bari Doab Canal and on the Lower Chenab Canal.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Thakur Pancham Chand : Does the Honourable Revenue Member consider that 35 rectangles are a sufficient peasant grant, or does he consider that more necessary ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The available land has to be distributed among the various districts and Kangra can only get its share.

Diversion of the Chakki in Kangra district.

***172. Thakur Pancham Chand :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Government is aware that very valuable lands were washed away by the diversion of Chakki at Dhangu in the Kangra district ;

(2) the amount sanctioned as compensation to the zamindars whose lands were washed away by the diversion ;

[Thakur Pancham Chand]

(3) whether it is a fact that the amount sanctioned has been assessed according to the prices current in 1868 ;

(4) whether it is a fact that the amount sanctioned has been refused by the zamindars ;

(5) if the answers to (3) and (4) above are in the affirmative, whether there is any reason why the Government should not pay interest at the rate of 6 per cent. from 1868 to the present moment ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (1) Some land was washed away, but it was not very valuable.

(2) Rs. 50,796.

(3) No ; the price was assessed according to the value of the land when eroded.

(4) Yes.

(5) Does not arise.

Thakur Pancham Chand : Instead of paying these people cash compensation, is the Government willing to grant squares of land as compensation ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I should like to have notice of the question.

Thakur Pancham Chand : Is the Government willing to consider the recommendations of the Financial Commissioner on this point ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I should like to have notice of the question.

TAHSILDAR CANDIDATES.

***173. Thakur Pancham Chand :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(1) the number of Tahsildar candidates accepted in the province during the last ten years ;

(2) the number of Tahsildar candidates accepted from the Kangra district within the last ten years ;

(3) what steps Government proposes to take to enlist more candidates from Dogras in view of their military services ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (1) Fifty-one.

(2) One.

(3) If suitable candidates with the necessary educational qualifications are forthcoming among Dogras, the fact of their military services will weigh in making selections in future.

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*174-*180.—*Cancelled.*

TAHSILDARS AND PROVINCIAL SERVICE.

***181. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether the Tahsildars were declared as gazetted officers in 1926 ;

(*b*) why they have not been recently declared by Government to be members of the Provincial Service ;

(*c*) whether Government intends to include them in the Provincial Service ; if not, why ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Tahsildars were declared gazetted officers in October 1925.

(*b*) Why should they be ?

(*c*) No. In each department of Government there is only *one Provincial* Service.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***182. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) how long the present Executive Engineer of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department has been in the Rohtak district ;

(*b*) the length of time ordinarily allowed to an official to be in a district ;

(*c*) the reason of allowing the official referred to in (*a*) above to remain in the Rohtak district for a longer period than ordinary ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The present Executive Engineer of the Irrigation Branch has been in the Rohtak district for three years and ten months.

(*b*) No period is laid down nor is any particular period worked to in practice. It depends on the local circumstances of each case and on leave, promotion, &c.

(*c*) Does not arise.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***183. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) how many complaints were received recently by the Government against the conduct of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, of the Rohtak district ;

(*b*) the nature of those complaints ;

(*c*) whether the Superintending Engineer, Delhi, submitted a report to Government stating that those complaints appeared to him to be true ;

(*d*) what action the Government has taken on those complaints if not, why not ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) One anonymous communication.

(*b*)
(*c*) It is not the policy of Government to take action on anonymous communications.
(*d*)

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : If there are definite facts in these anonymous allegations why should not Government take action ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : But how can Government know that the allegations are made *bona fide* unless the man signs his name ?

SIZES OF OUTLETS IN THE ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***184. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that the sizes of the outlets irrigating the lands of Kalanaur and its neighbouring villages in the Rohtak district were reduced sometime ago ;

(*b*) whether Government is also aware that the sizes of the outlets irrigating Mokhra and its neighbouring villages of the Rohtak district has been increased sometime ago ;

(*c*) the reasons for (*a*) and (*b*) if the answers to them are in the affirmative ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No. Only the type of outlet has been changed.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

DISCHARGES OF OUTLETS IN THE ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***185. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) what are, respectively, the fixed discharges of the outlets irrigating the lands of Kalanaur, Lahli and Mokhra villages in the Rohtak district ;

(*b*) how much discharge has been allowed at each of the outlets mentioned in (*a*) above during the present agricultural year ;

(*c*) the reason for the disparity in the case of the three villages in the discharge of the outlets mentioned in (*b*) above if there is any ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Permissible discharge of the outlets of Kalanaur is 22·48 cusecs, of Lahli 5·43 and of Mokhra 18·53 cusecs, and is based on culturable commanded area.

(*b*) This information is not available, gauges are not set up in water-courses and discharges of individual outlets are not recorded in any register. Irrigation in 1930-31 in all three villages is more than permissible.

(*c*) Does not arise.

BREACHES OF CONTRACT BY THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

***186. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that agricultural labourers known as the *halis* (ploughmen) of the zamindars take a substantial sum of money as debt before they agree to serve as agricultural labourers for a fixed period ;

(*b*) whether Government is also aware that they often run away in the midst of agricultural operations going on, generally to Indian States leaving the zamindars helpless ;

(*c*) what action, if any, the Government intends to take to prevent such breaches of contract of services, if the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes, in some districts.

(*b*) Yes, occasionally.

(*c*) The Workmen's Breach of Contract Act of 1859 might have been of help, but it was repealed in 1925. The only remedy now for aggrieved parties is a civil suit. Government regret that they cannot suggest any other solution of this difficult problem of which instances also occur in connection with labour employed in industries and contractors' labour, etc.

***187**.—*Cancelled.*

REMISSION OF ABIANA, &C., IN GURDASPUR AND KANGRA DISTRICTS.

***188. Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that rice is the chief *kharif* agricultural produce of the Kangra and Gurdaspur districts ;

(*b*) whether the fall in the price of rice has been a reason to remit a certain portion of the land revenue and *abiana* in several districts in *kharif* 1930 ;

(*c*) how much remission of land revenue and *abiana* has been given to the Kangra and Gurdaspur districts in *kharif* 1930 ;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) be in the negative, the reasons for not extending the help to the Kangra and Gurdaspur districts ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Rice is an important crop in these two districts.

(*b*) Yes, in canal irrigated areas.

[Hon. Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

			Rs. a. p.
(c) (i) Kangra	..	*Nil.*	
(ii) Gurdaspur	..	Land revenue ..	4,980 0 0
		Abiana (including remission for *kharaba*) ..	17,991 10 0
		Total ..	22,971 10 0

(d) Remission on rice of *kharif* 1930, was limited to canal irrigated tracts and was subject to a minimum combined land revenue and *abiana* demand of Rs. 8-8-0 per acre. No *abiana* is levied in Kangra district. There was no justification whatever for giving any special remission of land revenue there, as the commutation price of rice assumed at the last settlement is not higher than the present price.

CONSULTING ARCHITECT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

***189. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(a) whether the Consulting Architect and his staff are permitted to work—

(i) for private individuals,

(ii) whether the material used in preparation of drawing, etc., belongs to Government ;

(b) if so, whether the private persons whose work is done have to pay any remuneration ;

(c) if the answer to this be in the affirmative, what part of that remuneration goes to Government;

(d) whether it was the intention of Government to run the Consulting Architect Branch of the Public Works Department on commercial lines ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (a) (i) Yes, if the work can be undertaken without detriment to his official duties.

(ii) Occasionally.

(b) Yes.

(c) One-third of the fee when Government stationery, instruments, buildings or establishment are used.

(d) No.

CONSULTING ARCHITECT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

***190. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(a) when the Government Consulting Architect was appointed ;

(b) how much has the Architect and his staff cost Government from year to year since his appointment;

(c) how much money has been coming to Government every year on account of work done by the Architect and his staff for private business?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: (a) January 19th, 1914.

(b) and (c) I must refer the honourable member to my reply to question[1] No. 37 asked by Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.

CONSULTING ARCHITECT TO GOVERNMENT.

***191. Malak Muhammad Din:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(a) who performed the duties of the Government Architect before the appointment of the present Consulting Architect;

(b) what buildings in the province has the Government Consulting Architect designed ever since his appointment;

(c) what material advantage the province has gained by the appointment of the Consulting Architect;

(d) whether it is the intention of the Government to abolish the post of the Consulting Architect?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: (a) The Consulting Architect to the Government of India and architects occasionally employed from outside and the engineers of the Public Works Department.

(b) A list of *buildings* designed by the Government Architect is placed on the table.

(c) Skilled knoweldge in design and costs, resulting in—

(i) economy, improved planning and hygiene in buildings, town plans and town improvements of all kinds, and

(ii) in the economical erection of buildings of a technical and complicated nature required now-a-days, such as general, maternity and dental hospitals, medical schools and schools of other types, laboratories for chemical, hydraulic and other research, museums and so forth.

(d) No.

LIST OF BUILDINGS DESIGNED, IN THE PUNJAB PROVINCE, BY THE CONSULTING ARCHITICT TO GOVERNMENT, PUNJAB, SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT. (19-1-1914).

LAHORE.

1. Biological Laboratory, Lahore.
2. Government House, Lahore—

Ball room and additions and alterations; both wings.

3. Improvements at Charing Cross, Lahore.

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[1]Pages 147-48 *ante*.

[Hon. Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

4. King-Edward Memorial Scheme, Lahore—
   (a) Students' Hostel.
   Extensions to—
   (b) Medical College.
   (c) Mayo Hospital.
   (d) Research Institute.
   (e) Superintendent's quarters.
   (f) Nurses' Home.
   (g) Private Patients' ward.
   (h) Family Wards.
   (i) Chapel.
   (j) European Assistant Surgeon's quarters.
   (k) Indian Assistant Surgeon's quarters.
   (l) Anatomy and Materia Medica blocks.
   (m) Pathology and Physiology blocks.
   (n) Chaubara Chajju Bhagat.
5. Hostel for the Mayo School of Arts, Lahore.
6. New Military Accounts Office, Lahore.
7. New Veterinary College, Lahore—
   (a) Hostel.
   (b) Principal's Residence.
   Additions and alterations to—
   (c) Main Hall.
   (d) Museum.
   (e) Library.
   (f) Principal's Office.
8. Nila Gumbad Scheme, Lahore.
9. Alterations to Punjab University Library, Lahore.
10. Physical Laboratory, Lahore.
11. New Tehsil, Lahore.
12. Offices and Laboratories for—
    (a) Chemical Examiner to Government, Punjab, and
    (b) Chief Malaria Medical Officer, Lahore.
13. Punjab Light Horse Headquarters, Lahore.
14. House for Lady Physician, Aitchison Hospital, Lahore.
15. New Cemetery, Jail Road, Lahore.
16. New Law College, Lahore.
17. New Currency Office, Lahore.
18. Legislative Council Chamber and Office buildings, Lahore.

19. Gazetted Officers' Residences Estate, Lahore—

(a) Lay-out of Estate.

(b) Residence Type No. I (Winter) and Type No. I-A (Winter) on sites Nos. 4 and 28.

(c) Residence Type No. III (Winter) on sites Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 27.

(d) Residence Type No. IV (Permanent) on sites Nos. 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14.

(e) Residence Type No. III (Permanent) on sites Nos. 7, 16, 11, 15, 36, 37, 38 and 39.

(f) Residence Type No. III-A (Winter) on sites Nos. 30, 31, 32 and 33

(g) Residence Type No. V (Winter) on sites Nos. 16, 28, 29 and 47.

(h) Residence Type No. V (Permanent) on sites Nos. 34, 34-A and 35.

(i) Residence Type No. III-A (Permanent) on sites Nos. 44-A and 45.

(j) Post and Telegraph Office.

(k) Blocks of Flats.

(l) Bazar and Market.

(m) Residence (Special Type—Winter—Double storey) on site No. 48.

(n) Residence for Commissioner, Lahore, on site No. 49.

(o) Residence for Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, on site No. 44.

(p) General improvements to the Estate.

20. Hostel for Government College, Lahore.

21. Additions and alterations to High Court, Lahore.

22. House for the Chaplain of Lahore.

23. Chemical Laboratory, Punjab University, Lahore.

24. Zoological Laboratory, Punjab University, Lahore.

25. Oriental College, Lahore.

26. Lay-out of Fort Lands, Lahore.

27. Gardens around the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore.

28. Terracing along the South Wall of Fort, Lahore.

29. Hydraulic Research Laboratory, Lahore.

30. Dental School and Hospital, Lahore.

31. New Lady Aitchison Hosiptal and Medical School for Women, Lahore (Preliminary).

32. Charing Cross Scheme, Lahore :—

(a) Lay-out.

(b) Office buildings.

(c) New Council Chamber.

33. New Telegraph Office, Lahore.

[Hon. Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

34. Punjab Health School, Lahore.

35. Punjab Public Library, Lahore.

36. Boiler Inspector's Office and residence, Lahore.

37. Improvements to junction of Race Course Road with the Mall, Lahore.

38. Punjab Technical College, Lahore.

39. Lay-out of area behind the Commissioner's Office, Lahore.

40. Indian Clerks' quarters, Lahore.

41. Surroundings of the Punjab University, Lahore.

42. Soldiers' Home, Lahore Cantonment.

43. Maternity Hospital, Lahore :—

(*a*) Administration Block.

(*b*) Main Block.

(*c*) Septic Block.

(*d*) Nurses ' Home.

(*e*) Resident Medical Officer's quarters.

(*f*) *Dais* ' quarters.

AMRITSAR.

44. Princess of Wales Zenana Hospital, Amritsar :—

(*a*) Main building.

(*b*) Dispensary block.

(*c*) Doctor's house.

(*d*) Nursing sisters and Nurses ' quarters.

(*e*) Matrons and compounders ' quarters.

(*f*) Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters.

(*g*) Quarters for pupil Midwives.

45. Officers' Bungalows, Alexandra Park, Amritsar.

46. Medical School, Amritsar :—

(*a*) School building.

(*b*) Hostels.

(*c*) Anatomical block.

(*d*) Superintendent's quarters.

(*e*) Principal's residence.

(*f*) Principal's office.

RAWALPINDI.

47. Katchery at Rawalpindi (Preliminary).

48. Dispensary at Rawalpindi.

48-A. Museum at Taxila.

GUJRAT.

49. Extensions to the Government School of Engineering, Rasul.

50. Boarding House for the Government School of Engineering, Rasul.

51. Permanent buildings for Canal Establishment at Rasul.

52. Government High School, Phalia.

MULTAN.

53. Dispensary at Mailsi.

54. Government High School, Multan.

55. Reservoir Gauge House, Multan.

56. Lay-out of officers' quarters, Rest-house and combined offices of Irrigation Department, Multan.

GUJRANWALA.

57. Town Hall, Gujranwala.

58. Civil Hospital, Gujranwala.

SIALKOT.

59. Normal School and Boarding House at Pasrur.

KANGRA.

60. Residence for Sub-Divisional Officer at Sultanpur, Kulu.

61. Dispensary at Palampur.

JHELUM.

62. King George's Royal Indian Military School, Aurangabad.

LYALLPUR.

63. Lyall Pavilion and Fountain at Lyallpur.

64. Extensions to Agricultural College, Lyallpur.

65. Chemical Laboratory, Lyallpur.

66. Hostel for Agricultural College, Lyallpur.

67. Additions and alterations to Deputy Commissioners' residence, Lyallpur.

FEROZEPORE.

68. Government High School, Ferozepore.

HISSAR.

69. Government High School, Hissar.

JULLUNDUR.

70. Extensions to Officers' Mess, Phillaur.

71. King George's Royal Indian Military School, Jullundur.

72. New Pavilion and Exhibition Hall, Jullundur.

73. Junior Training College, Jullundur.

74. Carpentry School, Jullundur.

75. Punjab States Agency, Jullundur.

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AMBALA.

76. Boarding House at Ambala.

77. Training College (Lawrence Military Asylum), Sanawar.

JHANG.

78. District Board Hall, Jhang.

79. Dispensary at Kot Isa Shah.

MONTGOMERY.

80. Residence for Colonization Officer, Pakpattan.

81. Residence for Assistant Colonization Officer, Montgomery.

82. Lay-out of Civil Station, Pakpattan.

83. Residence for Civil Surgeon, Montgomery.

84. Government High School, Kamalia.

DERA GHAZI KHAN.

85. Residence for Settlement Officer, Dera Ghazi Khan.

86. Government High School, Jampur.

SHAHPUR.

87. Normal School and Boarding House, Sargodha.

LUDHIANA.

88. Asghar Ali Hall, Ludhiana.

89. Medical School for Women, Ludhiana.

90. Town Hall, Ludhiana.

91. Residence for District and Sessions Judge, Ludhiana.

KARNAL.

92. Government High School and Boarding House, Karnal.

93. Residence for Superintendent of Police, Karnal.

ROHTAK.

94. Normal School, Rohtak.

SHEIKHUPURA.

95. Lay-out plan of District Headquarters at Sheikhupura and the following buildings :—

(*a*) Deputy Commissioner's residence.

(*b*) District Court, buildings.

(*c*) Government High School.

(*d*) Irrigation and Buildings and Roads Offices.

(*e*) District Board Office.

(*f*) Indian Clerks' quarters.

(*g*) Revenue and Telegraph Office.

SIMLA.

96. Brockhurst Estate, Simla—

(a) Residence No. 1 and out-houses.

(b) Residence No. 2 and out-houses.

(c) Residence No. 3 and out-houses.

(d) Brockhurst Mansion and out-houses.

97. European Clerks' quarters and out-houses, Simla.

98. Municipal Electric Sub-Station, Chota Simla.

99. Additions and alterations to Ellerslie, Simla E.

100. Sanjauli Cemetery, Simla.

101. Additions and alterations to Walker Hospital, Simla.

102. Additions and alterations to Barnes Court, Simla.

103. Police and Fire Station, Chota Simla.

104. Indian Clerks' quarters, Simla.

105. Additions and alterations to Bishop Cotton School, Simla.

NOTE.—Minor works have not been included in the foregoing list.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

***192. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(a) the mileage of the various main and minor canals of the province ;

(b) the area in acres of land irrigated every year by perennial and non-perennial canals for the last 40 years ;

(c) the number of Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers in the Irrigation Department of the province and their salaries during each year of the said period of 40 years ;

(d) income from the Irrigation Department during each year of the said 40 years ;

(e) reasons why one Chief Engineer, Irrigation, and one Financial Commissioner cannot run their respective departments ;

(f) reasons why the posts of Revenue Commissioners and Superintending Engineers, Irrigation, should not be abolished ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a), (b), (d) The honourable member is referred to the Administration Reports issued annually by the Irrigation Branch.

(c) Statements are laid on the table.

(e) As they will not be able to cope with the work.

(f) Because the work of Administration will suffer.

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.]

STATEMENT SHOWING GRADES AND SCALES OF PAY OF IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL

Designation.	Prior to July 1892.	From July 1892.	From 1st July 1900.	From 21st August 1905.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Chief Engineers ..	1,800—2,500	1,800—2,500	1,800—2,500	2,500—2,750
Superintending Engineers ..	1,100—1,600	I. S. 1,100—1,600 P. S. 750—1,050	I. S. 1,250—1,600 P. S. 750—1,050	I. S. 1,500—2,000 P. S. 750—1,050
Executive Engineers ..	600—950	I. S. 700—1,100 P. S. 475—650	I. S. 700—1,100 P. S. 475—650	I. S. 700—1,100 P. S. 475—650
Assistant Engineers (Now called Assistant Executive Engineers).	250—500	I. S. 350—550 P. S. 250—400	I. S. 350—550 P. S. 250—400	I. S. 350—550 P. S. 250—400
Provincial Service of Engineers introduced from 1920 (called Assistant Engineers).	..	..	..	..

*NOTE.—1. Europe recruited Executive and Assistant Executive Engineers whether European or Indian

2. Executive and Assistant Executive Engineers possessing non-Asiatic domicile were granted

†NOTE.—1. Chief and Superintending Engineers possessing non-Asiatic domicile draw Overseas pay at

2. Executive and Assistant Engineers possessing non-Asiatic domicile draw Overseas pay at £ 15 drawn in

SERVICE OF ENGINEERS DURING THE YEARS FROM 1892 TO 1931.

From 8th March 1908.	From 1st April 1911.	From 30th August 1919.	*From 1st January 1920.	†From 1st April 1924 to date.	REMARKS.
6	7	8	9	10	11
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
2,500—2,750	2,500—2,750	2,750—3,000	2,750—3,000	2,750—3,000	
I. S. 1 500—2,000	I. S. 1,500—2,000	1,750—2,150	1,750—2,150	1,750—2,150	
P. S. 1,200—1,600	P. S. 1,200—1,600				
I. S. 700—1,250	I. S. 700—1,250	I. S. 700—1,600	550—1,300	825—1,375	
P. S. 650—900	P. S. 535—850	P. S. 500—1,250			
I. S. 380—660	I. S. 300—660	I. S. 450—1,150	300—900	375—975	
P. S. 250—550	P. S. 250—475	P. S. 300—860			
..	..	..	250—20—750	250—20—750	When placed in Divisional charge, they draw senior scale pay of the Indian Service of Engineers.

were granted technical pay at Rs. 75 per mensem.

Overseas pay at Rs. 150—250 per mensem.

£ 13-6-8 per mensem.

to £ 30 per mensem if drawn in sterling and at Rs. 150—300 per mensem if rupees.

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.]

STATEMENT SHOWING SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL

Names of posts.	YEARS OF						
	1892.	1893.	1894.	1897.	January 1900.	August 1900.	1902.
Chief Engineers ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Superintending Engineers ..	3	5	5	5	5	6	6
Executive Engineers ..	20	22	30	36	35	35	37
Assistant Engineers (now called Assistant Executive Engineers).	28	30	30	37	36	35	37
Provincial Service of Engineers.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	52	58	66	79	77	77	81

SERVICE OF ENGINEERS DURING THE YEARS 1892 TO 1931.

REVISION.

1903.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1916.	1920.	1922.	1924.	1928 to date.
1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
6	8	9	10	10	11	15	15	15
38	46	51	54	72	60	78	77	75
39	47	52	56	61	53	56	56	55
..	..	..	..	..	111	111	140	140
84	103	114	122	145	237	263	291	288

RETRENCHMENT IN IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT.

***193. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) the total expenditure of the Irrigation Department on temporary Assistant Engineers, temporary subordinates, temporary clerks and temporary menials ;

(*b*) the number of each of the aforesaid class of officers and subordinates proposed to be reduced, and the total saving which their reduction will result in ;

(*c*) the total saving that can be made by abolishing—

(*i*) two Chief Engineers, and all Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Department,

(*ii*) one Financial Commissioner and all Commissioners of Revenue Department ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan :

	Per annum.
	Rs.
(*a*) Temporary Engineers	2,86,000
Temporary Subordinates	4,92,000
Temporary Clerks	65,000

(These figures are approximate only, the rate of expenditure varying from month to month, and accounts not being maintained under these headings.)

Practically all menials are temporary and, therefore, no figure of expenditure has been given. The figures given above include emoluments of men employed against the posts in the three temporary circles of the Sutlej Valley Project.

(*b*) Reduction is being made as temporary posts close down. Last year the Bikaner Circle was closed down on being taken over by the Bikaner State, and four Divisions in the Bahawalpur Circles were handed over to Bahawalpur State. Other temporary posts have also recently been reduced on the amalgamation of the Rural Sanitary and Improvement Board with the Waterlogging Investigation Circle, and also due to completion of work for which certain temporary divisions and sub-divisions were created. It is expected that for the latter reason one more temporary division and five temporary sub-divisions will close down within the next three months.

Establishment.	Approximate figures for 1930-31.		Approximate figures for 1931-32.	
	Numbers.	Expenditure.	Numbers.	Expenditure.
		Rs.		Rs.
Temporary Engineers ..	52	346,000	37	2,26,000
Temporary Subordinates ..	557	5,40,000	421	4,45,000
Temporary Clerks ..	133	69,000	113	61,000

(*c*) (*i*) and (*ii*) The emoluments drawn by these officers will be found in the budget.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS, ROADS AND BUILDINGS.

***194. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) the total expenditure Government have to incur on Superintending Engineers and their staff (Roads and Buildings Branch);

(*b*) whether the department (Roads and Buildings, Public Works Department) can be run without the Superintending Engineers ;

(*c*) what objection, if any, Government has to the abolition of their posts ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Rs. 2,42,872 during 1929-30.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

DEPUTY COLLECTORS, IRRIGATION.

***195. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state why posts of Deputy Collectors of Irrigation should not be abolished ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Because Deputy Collectors have very definite and important duties and responsibilities which cannot be carried out conveniently by any one else.

MAYO HOSPITAL, LAHORE.

***196. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that every one who becomes an indoor patient by hiring a room in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, has to pay an exorbitant fee for an operation or other medical treatment ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the poor or non-paying indoor patients of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, do not receive the same amount of medical attention as the well-to-do or paying patients ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that some of the poor or non-paying patients are sometimes compelled to engage rooms to receive greater attention ;

(*d*) if the answer to this be in the affirmative whether Government intends to take action, if any, in the matter ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Fees are charged according to a fixed scale. A copy of the rules on the subject is laid on the table.

(*b*) No, all patients receive equal attention in the hospital.

(*c*) Poor patients are never compelled to leave the General Wards, though care is exercised to prevent the admission of well-to-do patients in these wards on the principle that those who can afford to pay should not have free treatment.

[Hon. Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.]

(*d*) Government have under consideration the whole question of fees charged and to be charged in hospital, and also the distribution of such fees as between Government and the medical officers.

MAYO HOSPITAL, LAHORE.

RAI BAHADUR RAM SARAN DASS BLOCK.

Indian Private and Family Wards.

1. The Indian Private and Family Wards are open to Indians on payment of the following charges :—

	Rs.
*Private Wards	5 per diem (in)
*Family Wards	10 per diem (in)

First four rooms in the Indian Private Ward are reserved for persons whose mode of life is European, irrespective of their race or creed. The charge for them is Rs. 6-8-0.

The charges of Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 per diem for the Indian Private and Family Wards respectively may be reduced at the discretion of the Medical Superintendent.

2. The daily charge includes the cost of diet according to the Hospital scale. When alcoholic stimulants and patent medicines and vaccines are prescribed patients must provide these at their own expense. This also applies to articles of food not included in the Hospital dietary, as well as to medical comforts such as jellies, meat essences biscuits, etc.

3. Stimulants must be made over to the charge of the House Surgeon, who will see that they are administered at the prescribed hours and in the prescribed quantities. Patients are not allowed to treat visitors to any form of spirituous liquors.

4. The scale of Medical Officer's attendance fee and the scale of fees of operations of various kinds charged to patients accommodated in the private rooms are as follows :—

OPERATION FEES—

	Rs.
Persons whose income does not exceed Rs. 150 per mensem	Free.
Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 151—250 per mensem	50 maximum.
Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 251—500 per mensem	150 ,,
Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 501—750 per mensem	300 ,,

It is left in all cases to arrangement between Medical Officer and patient what the actual fee should be.

Above Rs. 750 per mensem fees for operations will be left for private arrangements between the Medical Officer and the patients.

VISITING FEES—

	Rs.
Income up to Rs. 150 per mensem	*Nil.*
Income from Rs. 151—250 per mensem	5 per diem.
Income from Rs. 251—500 and upwards per mensem	10 ,,

These fees may be reduced at the discretion of the Medical Officer in attendance on the case.

The scale of fees prescribed above will also apply in th case of confinement cases.

NOTE.—*The above scales of fees shall not apply to any persons mentioned in Governmen of India, Home Department, Medical Notification No.* 974, *dated the* 17*th November* 1920.

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*In addition to the fees referred to above, eight annas per diem will be charged for eletric fans in summer and fire in winter, if required.

5. Patients occupying private wards within 24 hours of admission pay 10 days' fees in advance. No exception can be made to this rule and patients who fail to comply with it, will be transferred to the general wards. Fees are payable to the House Surgeon, who will furnish a receipt for the amount paid.

6. Patients on regular diets are supplied with two meals daily which will be served at hours fixed by the Medical Superintendent and no patient is allowed to have food of any kind except that ordered on the bed-head tickets. Patients' friends are earnestly requested to observe this rule strictly, as fatal results have followed its neglect.

7. One private servant is allowed to be with each patient whilst in Hospital.

8. Except in urgent cases the House Surgeon of these wards must not allot rooms to patients without sanction of the Medical Superintendent.

The admission of all urgent cases should be notified to the Medical Superintendent during office hours (10 A.M to 4 P.M.).

ALBERT VICTOR HOSPITAL.

Rules regarding the Private Wards.

1. The Private Wards of the Albert Victor Hospital are open to Europeans and Anglo-Indians on payment of the following charges :—

	Rs.
For Government Officials or employees of the North-Western Railway or those members of their families who are dependent on them on salaries of less than Rs. 250 per mensem	4 per diem.
For all others	6 „

2. The daily charge includes the cost of diet according to the Hospitals scale. When alcoholic stimulants are prescribed patients must provide these at their own expense. This also applies to articles of food not included in the Hospital dietary, as well as to medical comforts such as jellies, meat essences, biscuits, etc., and fuel.

3. Stimulants must be made over to the charge of the House Surgeon, who will see that they are administered at the pescribed hours and in the prescribed quantities. Patients are not allowed to treat visitors to any form of spirituous liquors.

4. The scale of Medical Officer's attendance fee and the scale of fees of operations of vairous kinds charged to patients accommodated in the private rooms are as follows :—

Operation Fees—

	Rs.
Persons whose income does not exceed Rs. 150 per mensem	Free
Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 151—250 per mensem	50 maximum.
Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 251—500 per mensem	150 „
Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 501—750 per mensem	300 „

It is left in all cases to arrangement between Medical Officer and patient what the actual fee should be.

Above Rs. 750 per mensem fees for operations will be left for private arrangements between the Medical Officer and the patients.

Visiting Fees—

	Rs.
Income up to Rs. 150 per mensem ..	*Nil.*
Income from Rs. 151—250 per mensem	5 per diem.
Income from Rs. 251—500 and upwards per mensem ..	10 „

These fees may be reduced at the discretion of the Medical Officer in attendance on the case.

The sacle of fees prescribed above will also apply in the case of confinement cases.

Note.—The above scales of fees shall not apply to any persons mentioned in Government of India, Home Department, Medical Notification No. 974, dated the 17th November 1920.

[Hon. Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.]

5. Patients occupying private wards must within 24 hours of admission pay ten days' fees in advance. No exception can be made in this rule and patients who fail to comply with it will be transferred to the General Wards. Fees are payable to the House Surgeon who will furnish a receipt for the amount paid.

NOTE.—Day to be reckoned from midnight to midnight.

6. Annas 8 per diem will be charged in addition to the room fee for electric fans in summer and a fire in winter, if required.

7. Patients on regular diets are supplied with three meals daily which will be served at hours fixed by the Medical Superintendent and no patient is allowed to have food of any kind except that ordered on the bed-head tickets. Patients' friends are earnestly requested to observe this rule strictly, as fatal results have followed its neglect.

8. One private servant is allowed to be with each patient whilst in Hospital.

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

***197. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) when the Committee of Engineers was appointed to report on the possible effect of the Bhakra Dam scheme on the water level of the Indus ;

(*b*) when was this Committee originally expected to submit its report ;

(*c*) what are the causes of delay, if any ;

(*d*) whether this report has so far been submitted to the two local Governments concerned and the Government of India ;

(*e*) whether the Government has any objection to a copy of this report being placed on the table of this House ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) On 1st April 1930.

(*b*) and (*c*) No definite expectation of the date of the report was made.

(*d*) It has been submitted to the Governments of Bombay and the Punjab.

(*e*) The report was signed on 16th December 1930, and is in the Press. When printed a copy will be placed on the table of the House.

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

***198. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether the final estimate of expenditure on the Bhakra Dam scheme has been prepared :

(*b*) whether all the necessary details of the scheme have been worked out ;

(*c*) when it is expected to submit the scheme to the Government of India for sanction ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) The project of 1919 was worked out in detail and the cost revised in 1926.

As a consequence of the reports dated 2nd January 1928, of the Expert Committee on the Dam which recommended raising the Dam from 400 feet to 500 feet in height the water stored will be increased from 2¾ to 4¼ million foot acres. This has necessitated the recasting of the entire project. Now that there is good reason to believe that the way of the project has been made smooth with the Bombay Government, it is possible to open conversations with the Indian States concerned with the object of outlining the scope of the project to satisfy all the States concerned in so far as nature and sound engineering principles permit.

(*c*) It is impossible to say.

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

***199. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether there has been any correspondence between the Punjab Government and the Government of India and between the Punjab Government and the Bombay Government on the subject of the Bhakra Dam scheme since February 1929 ;

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the Government has any objection to this correspondence being placed on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Honourable member is no doubt aware that the correspondence cannot be placed on the table without the concurrence of Government of India and the Bombay Government. I can, however, assure him that no useful purpose would be served by doing so, as it does not, so far, in any way tend to retard the progress of the preparation of the project.

RAINS IN ROHTAK.

***200. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) the last date on which rain fell at Rohtak during the last monsoon ;

(*b*) the last date on which rain in excess of ten cents fell at any of the reporting stations in Rohtak district during the last monsoon ;

(*c*) the date or dates on which there has been winter rain in excess of ten cents up to the 5th February at any of the reporting stations in the district of Rohtak ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) 18th September, 1930.

				Inches.
(*b*) Rohtak, 18th September, 1930	..	..		·18
Gohana, 14th September, 1930	..	..		·15
Jhajjar, 1st September, 1930 ..	..	..		·22
Beri, 14th September, 1930 ..	..	..		·42
Sonepat, 14th September, 1930	..	..		·24
Sampla, 29th July, 1930 ..	..	..		3·02
Salhawas, 17th August, 1930 ..	..	..		·57
(*c*) 25th November, 1930—				
Rohtak	..	..	.. ..	·18
2nd February 1931—				
Jhajjar	..	..	.. ..	·14

CANAL WATER-SUPPLY IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***201. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) the number of days for which canals ran at full supply in the Rohtak district in each *wari* since the 1st December 1930 up to the 8th February 1931;

(*b*) the number of days for which canals should run at full supply in a normal year during a period of ten weeks;

(*c*) what is the normal discharge at Tajawala in winter months, what was the discharge last winter and what it has been this year at Tajawala?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) In Rohtak District during the period 1st December 1930 to 25th February 1931 the Delhi Branch ran at full supply for 24·5 days and the Hansi Branch for 28·3 days.

(*b*) On the average of the preceding 6 years, the Delhi Branch for 30 days and the Hansi Branch for 28·7 days.

(*c*) Normal discharge at Tajawala in winter months is 2,444 cusecs, last winter the average was 2,830 cusecs and this winter it is 2,018 cusecs for 4 months November, December 1930, January and February 1931.

WATER SUPPLY IN WESTERN JUMNA CANAL, ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***202. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether there have been complaints of short supplies of water from the Western Jumna Canal in the Rohtak district;

(*b*) whether Government has made any enquiries as to the total area under canal-irrigated wheat and as to the proportion of this area (in Rohtak district) which had received its first watering before the (*a*) 15th January and (*b*) 5th February ;

(*c*) if the enquiries referred to in (*b*) have not been made so far, whether the Government intends to make them now ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes. They are due to unusually low river supply and scarcity of rainfall.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No, because the information is not available in the patwari registers.

DACOITIES IN ROHTAK.

***203. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) the number of dacoities committed in the district of Rohtak in 1930 ;

(*b*) the average annual number of dacoities as calculated on the figures of the five years preceding 1930 in the district ;

(*c*) whether the Government has ever made any enquiries from non-official societies, such as the Bar Association, or private individuals, well acquainted with the conditions prevailing in the district as to the causes which led to the abnormal rise in the number of dacoities ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Thirty-nine.

(*b*) Seven.

(*c*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to part (*c*) of starred Council question[1] No. 37.

PUNITIVE POLICE IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***204. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal under consideration to station punitive police on a large scale in various localities in the Rohtak district ;

(*b*) what are the alleged grounds on which the proposal referred to in (*a*) is based ;

(*c*) whether any non-official societies or private individuals having intimate knowledge of the district were asked, formally or informally, by the Government or its officers to express their views as to the validity of the alleged grounds ;

(*d*) whether the inhabitants of the localities affected have been given an opportunity to show cause against the proposal referred to in (*a*) ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*). The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to starred Council question[2] No. 39.

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[1] Page 70 *ante*.
[2] Pages 70-71 *ante*.

DACOITIES IN ROHTAK DISTRICT AND SPECIAL OFFICERS.

***205. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether an Assistant Superintendent with some subordinate police officers and a Magistrate with section 30 powers have been posted to the Rohtak district specially for the detection and arrest of dacoits and their trial ;

(*b*) the date on which the Assistant Superintendent and the Special Magistrate referred to in (*a*) arrived in the district ;

(*c*) the number of dacoities committed after the arrival of the special officers referred to in (*a*) ;

(*d*) whether the Government has called for, or the special officers referred to in (*a*) have submitted any, report on the response of the people to these officers' appeal for help and co-operation in the suppression and punishment of dacoits ;

(*e*) whether in view of the restoration of normal conditions and the prevailing economic distress Government intends to drop the proposal for stationing punitive police ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Assistant Superintendent of Police took over charge on the 9th December 1930, and the Special Magistrate on the 12th December 1930.

(*c*) Three.

(*d*) The Assistant Superintendent of Police has reported from time to time. In some cases villagers have responded to appeals for help, in others they have given little or none. In all cases no help was forthcoming until the officers on special duty with the additional police arrived.

(*e*) No specific proposals have yet reached Government. When they are received, all relevant considerations including the economic situation will be taken into account. But the honourable member is not correct in assuming that normal conditions have been restored.

CHOWKIDARS IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***206. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) the number of chowkidars in the Rohtak district ;

(*b*) the amount of annual expenditure on the emoluments of chowkidars in the Rohtak district ;

(*c*) the number of villages in the Rohtak district where the number of chowkidars exceeds four ;

(*d*) the names of villages in the Rohtak district where the number of chowkidars exceeds six ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) 1,100.

(*b*) Rs. 81,036.

(*c*) 35.

(*d*) A list is laid on the table—

LIST.

Kalanaur Khurd, Kalanaur Kalan, Majra, Kosli, Dighal, Chhara, Mandothi, Assaudha, Dubaldhan, Badli, Guryani, Bhatgaon, Khewra, Murthal, Muhana, Barauda, Butana.

CHOWKIDARS.

***207. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the total number of chowkidars in the province and the aggregate amount which the people have to pay to meet the cost of their salaries annually?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : These statistics were worked out in 1929, when the number of chowkidars was 33,615 and the amount of their salaries Rs. 2,18,496. The present figures may be taken to be approximately the same.

WATCH AND WARD ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL TOWNS.

***208. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly lay on the table of the House a statement showing the names, population and annual income of municipal towns—

(*a*) which have to pay for their own watch and ward;

(*b*) whose expenses of watch and ward are borne by provincial revenues:

(*c*) the annual amount spent by each of them falling under (*a*);

(*d*) the annual amount which each of the towns falling under (*b*) used to spend on its watch and ward at the time when this expenditure was taken over by the Government?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The information asked for by the honourable member is being collected and will be communicated to him when available.

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME IN THE PUNJAB.

***209. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) the average annual income per head in the Punjab;

(*b*) the average annual income per head in towns;

(*c*) the average annual income per head in villages?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is regretted that the information asked for by the honourable member is not available.

AVERAGE WAGE IN THE PUNJAB.

***210. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the average daily wage earned by a labourer in (*a*) towns, and (*b*) villages in the Punjab?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: The statement showing average daily wage earned by a labourer in (*a*) towns and (*b*) villages in each district of the Punjab, as ascertained at the Census of 1927, is attached. The last quinquennial wage census was taken in December, 1927, and the next will be taken in 1932; figures for 1930 are not available :—

STATEMENT SHOWING AVERAGE DAILY WAGES EARNED BY LABOURERS IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE PUNJAB DURING THE CENSUS OF 1927.

District.	Average daily wage in annas in towns.	Average daily wage in annas in villages.
Hissar	..	5½ to 10½
Rohtak	..	4½ to 8½
Gurgaon	..	3½ to 5½
Karnal	..	5½ to 8½
Ambala	..	7½ to 11½
Simla	..	(*a*)
Kangra	..	5½ to 8½
Hoshiarpur	..	7½ to 12½
Jullundur	..	9½ to 12½
Ludhiana	..	9½ to 13½
Ferozepore	..	7½ to 11½
Lahore	14 to 16	7½ to 12½
Amritsar	14 to 16	9½ to 12½
Gurdaspur	..	7½ to 12½
Sialkot	..	7½ to 12½
Gujranwala	..	11½ to 12½
Sheikhupura	..	11½ to 16½
Gujrat	..	7½ to 12½
Shahpur	..	9½ to 16½
Jhelum	..	7½ to 10½
Rawalpindi	..	7½ to 9½
Attock	..	7½ to 10½
Mianwali	..	7½ to 10½
Montgomery	..	7½ to 12½
Lyallpur	..	9½ to 16½
Jhang	..	7½ to 16½
Multan	10	5½ to 12½
Muzaffargarh	..	4½ to 8½
Dera Ghazi Khan	..	3½ to 8½

(*a*) No daily wages are paid in rural areas in this district. Unskilled labour is provided by the agriculturists themselves who help each other in return for meals.

AVERAGE DEBT IN VILLAGES.

***211. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the average amount of debt per head in villages where the Board of Economic Enquiry has carried out its investigations ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The honourable member is referred to Note H (item No. 11 (*c*)), page 221 of the Report of the Punjab Provincial Banking Inquiry Committee, 1929-30, Volume I, which gives the information asked for.

INDEBTEDNESS IN VILLAGES.

***212. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the percentage of families which were found free from indebtedness in the villages where enquiries of this kind were made under the auspices of the Board of Economic Enquiry ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The honourable member is referred to Note H (item No. 10), page 221 of the Report of the Punjab Provincial Banking Inquiry Committee, 1929-30, Volume I, which gives the information asked for.

REDUCTION IN SALARIES.

***213. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state (after enquiry if necessary) the measure of reduction in the salaries of (*a*) present incumbents and (*b*) future entrants adopted by the Bombay Government in respect of the various branches of the public service and whether the Punjab Government has any, and if so what, objections to the adoption of the same measure in this province ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Government has seen no official pronouncement of the intentions of the Government of Bombay in regard to the reduction of salaries, but will make enquiries.

RETRENCHMENT IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

***214. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state the specific measures which have been adopted to effect economy or retrenchment in the various departments controlled by the Punjab Government ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The honourable member is referred to the budget speech of the Honourable Member for Finance and the memorandum accompanying the budget for 1931-32.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

***215. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that S. Chhanga Singh, a respectable and well-to-do zamindar and a member of the district board of Lyallpur,

[R. B. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

S. Jaswant Singh Ranivalia of Ferozepore district owning ten squares of irrigated land, S. Karam Singh Chima of Jullundur district, brother of a zaildar, S. Bhag Singh Canadian of Jullundur district, a wealthy zamindar and S. Darshan Singh of Pheru Man in the Amritsar district when convicted of political offences were all placed in C class ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that S. Amar Singh, Jaswant Singh and Sarmukh Singh (all three Jhabbal brothers) were convicted of political offences and while S. Amar Singh was placed in A class, the other two brothers were placed in B class ;

(*c*) if the reply to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, the reasons for assigning the particular class in each case ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). It is regretted that in the absence of details regarding the conviction of these persons and the courts by which they were tr. d, it is not possible to answer this question. If the honourable member will kindly furnish the necessary details I shall endeavour to supply the i.formation he asks for.

SESSIONS JUDGES.

***216. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Sessions Judges recruited directly from among practising lawyers ;

(*b*) the year in which the last batch was so recruited ; and

(*c*) whether the men so recruited proved competent ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (*a*) Two.

(*b*) 1921.

(*c*) No adverse reports of their competency have been received by Government.

PASSAGES TO IMPERIAL SERVICE OFFICERS.

***217. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the amount spent in free passages granted to officers of Imperial Services during the last five years in the Punjab ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

SPECIAL PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

***218. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state in respect of the Imperial and Provincial Services separately the amount spent during the last three years in the province on (*a*) special pay and (*b*) special allowances of all kinds ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX.

***219. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the annual income during the last three years from taxes on motor vehicles ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan :

					Rs.
1927-28	..	..	..	..	3,16,733
1928-29	..	..	..	..	3,63,040
1929-30	..	..	..	..	4,80,310

COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***220. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the names of any six rural areas selected for the introduction of voluntary compulsion in the district of Rohtak before 1929 ;

(*b*) the total population of each of these areas :

(*c*) the total number of (*a*) boys and (*b*) girls of school-going age in each of these areas ;

(*d*) the number of (*a*) boys and (*b*) girls on the rolls in each of these areas ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when it is ready.

BREACHES IN THE BRANCHES AND DISTRIBUTARIES OF THE LOWER CHENAB CANAL.

***221. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of breaches on each branch and distributary of the Lower Chenab Canal during the year 1929-30 ;

(*b*) the number of zamindars employed to close such breaches ;

(*c*) the amount of wages paid to the zamindars so employed ;

(*d*) the method of such payment ;

(*e*) the average wages paid per head ;

(*f*) whether the Government have obtained receipts for payments received by zamindars employed for closing breaches ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The information is not available. It will require considerable time and labour to collect such information from local officers. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore, (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, we are grateful to the Honourable Finance Member and his Lieutenant, Mr. Puckle, for putting in such hard work and labour and bringing this Budget with exhaustive notes on it before this Council. A perusal of the memorandum put forward by the Honourable Finance Member shows that there is a very earnest desire on the part of Government to economise and this fact alone is very encouraging and I should congratulate the Government on this point, because I maintain, Sir, that the present situation, as it stands to-day, can only be met efficiently if Government will economise all round. I will just make a few observations in connection with the figures that have been supplied to us by the Finance Department. Sir, the present year's income as shown in the budget that was last presented to this Council, was Rs. 10,95 lakhs, while we understand now that the actual proceeds would be Rs. 10,62 lakhs. But the Finance Department says that the next year will be a normal year and therefore they expect the receipts to be Rs. 11,18 lakhs. That means that there will be Rs 57 lakhs of income more than we had in the present year. This, I think, Sir, is an optimistic estimate, because as things are now, and as the Honourable Finance Member in his budget speech admitted himself that the agricultural conditions of the country are in a very bad condition, I cannot really think why this optimistic estimate has been put forward thinking that there would be a normal year and giving as high a figure as Rs. 11,18 lakhs. In the same way I would submit that as far as the expenditure of the next year is concerned, it is shown to be Rs. 10,83 lakhs, whereas in the present year we have spent 11,22 lakhs of rupees. Again, I will submit, Sir, that the reduction in expenditure by about 39 lakhs of rupees is on the low side. My belief is that next year we will be in not a very happy sort of condition judging from the next harvest and the low price of agricultural produce. I think Government will have to spend much in the way of giving relief to the agriculturist and to some of the famine-stricken areas like Hissar and Rohtak and other such places. Therefore I think Government will have to spend more than they have actually estimated.

However, it is not correct to take the next year as the normal year. In the same way I have found that, as regards the extraordinary receipts, the Finance Departments' estimate that they will be able to raise Rs. 66,00,000 during the next year, is rather a liberal one. Knowing the prices that land now-a-days fetches—and this is the main item of income by which Government wants to raise these extraordinary receipts—I can definitely say that things are so bad that a square of land which used to fetch, say, Rs. 10,000 cannot now easily be sold for Rs. 4,000. I will next refer to one important point which I have noticed in the speech delivered by the Honourable Finance Member and also in the memorandum, namely, that the Government wants to spend Rs. 45 lakhs from ordinary revenue on capital expenditure. That again is not a sound principle of economy and I submit that this should not have been done.

With your permission I shall briefly refer to the savings that have been made in the present year and also those that have been proposed for the next year. I find that the axe of retrenchment has fallen

heavily on the nation building departments. I refer to the figures that have been supplied to us and I find that out of a retrenchment of Rs. 17 lakhs, 11 lakhs come from the beneficent departments. In the same way the retrenchment proposed for the next year is Rs. 39 lakhs and out of that we find that Rs. 21 lakhs are to be cut down from the nation building departments. I do not know how the Ministers feel on these points, but surely we in this Council feel very strongly that this should not have been done. (*Hear, hear*). Naturally the question arises in the mind of everybody, how then is the retrenchment to be made, how savings are to be effected ? I will in this discussion only suggest just a few points without going into details, because some of my friends will take them one by one when those items come up for discussion before this House. I have gone through the figures roughly and I can say that a considerable saving can be made if Government proposes to do it on the lines which I am going to suggest. The first item I shall refer to in this connection is the special allowances given to most of the officers. I do not know what those special allowances mean. There are so many special allowances in the budget with different designations. I think if those special allowances are withdrawn there would be a considerable saving. Then, again I shall refer to road repairs. Of course, I pointed out the other day and I will touch it again today, that if there is proper supervision of repairs of these roads, I can safely say that there will be a considerable amount of saving. Then, coming to Government buildings, I do not know what the policy of Government is in starting construction of these buildings. I understand that there was a demand for houses specially in Lahore and therefore Government started building lots of bungalows on the Golf Road and in some other parts of the city. But there again the money spent on these bungalows is more than it would have been if they had been constructed by private persons. Once built, a good deal of money ought to have been raised by way of rents. I will specially draw the attention of the Finance Member particularly to this point, namely, that the rent charged on the Government bungalows is so low that it cannot be justified anywhere. I understand that the rent varies from Rs. 80 to Rs. 180 or something like that. The bungalow for which a rent of Rs. 80 is charged by Government nowhere else in Lahore can a similar house be found for less than Rs. 150. As a matter of fact, those who live in bungalows or who let them can easily understand that no bungalow worth the name can be had in Lahore for anything less than Rs. 200. I understand that there is hardly any house in the whole of the Government Colony that is fetching Rs. 200 as rent. On the top of this there is another thing and that is, that these houses fetch rent only for six months or seven months in the year. If you, therefore, distribute the rent for the six or seven months over the whole year, the rent charged comes to about Rs. 40 or so. I ask this House if there is any place in the vicinity of Lahore where you can get bungalows at such cheap rents I am sure that if the rents are raised a good deal of money could be found.

I have complained that Government has shown a tendency to cut down expenditure on the nation building departments. No doubt, there is some scope for cutting down expenditure in those departments also. I may suggest to the Honourable Minister for Education that the money that is being spent on Arts colleges and the university education—I do not say that the money is being wasted—but surely it can be cut down to a very great

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extent. The present day need is more for primary and secondary education than for Arts and university education. The result of the present day university education is that we get thousands and thousands of unemployed graduates who cannot get jobs even on Rs. 30 a month anywhere; and if expenditure can be cut down on the university education it will be a wholesome thing.

I will refer to another point which also concerns the Minister for Education and that is the Amritsar Medical School. I really cannot understand what purpose that school is serving. The education imparted there is practically the same as is being done in the Medical College here except for the fact that the medical education given there is in vernacular whereas it is here in English. But the result is that the sub-assistant surgeons who come out of that school cannot find employment anywhere. They have to compete with the assistant surgeons who come out of the Medical College. We in the district boards are taking assistant surgeons on Rs. 70 a month. How can a sub-assistant surgeon compete with them unless it be that he is prepared to accept Rs. 30 or Rs. 40?

I will refer to another point in this connection. I find that in some places there are two dispensaries working side by side. One perhaps belongs to the Canal Department and the other belongs to the district board. In some places, one belongs to the Railway Department and another belongs to the Canal Department or the Public Works Department.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Are there any Public Works Department dispensaries?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: I am not sure about the Public Works Department dispensaries, but I am sure that there are Irrigation and Railway dispensaries.

Now, I shall say a word or two in connection with the department where Government ought to have spent more, and that is the department of Industries. I always find that this province is very slow in developing its industries. The amount of money that we used to spend in 1922-23, that is, about ten years ago, was Rs. 8,00,07,000. Now, what do we find in 1931-32? The amount provided for next year is 10,00,07,000—just an increase of 2 lakhs after ten years' time, which I understand is due to the increment in pay of the establishment in the department. This is a point which should demand the special attention of the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government. I may remind the House that those who are working the Joint Development Board feel keenly, when after a great deal of labour that they put in the committees they find that there is absolutely no money with which to help the industries of the province and the whole labour of theirs is thus wasted. We should understand that though this is an agricultural province, unless we develop industries side by side it will be useless to think that land will always go on accommodating so many people that are added to the population, especially, when the land is getting worse and worse every day.

There is one other department where I would like this Government to pay special attention and spend money if need be and that is the Forest Department. (*Hear, hear*). Perhaps some members here may not agree

with me that this is a very useful department and that there is a great deal of necessity for keeping these forests intact. But after hearing the other day the speech of Mr. Holland and seeing the slides which he showed, there will be absolutely no doubt in any one's mind that if we want the progress of this province we must save our forests. Unless we do that there will be no amount of hill torrents and there will be less supply of water in our canals and rivers. Ours being an agricultural province we cannot afford to neglect the forests. Mr. Holland made a very important statement that day. He said that Englishmen practically not being familiar with their forests as the Germans and the French are, did not take so much care, as they ought to have done, of these forests in the beginning with the result that we find nowadays that water is getting scarce and scarce in the canals and rivers on account of our not looking after our forests properly. There is one point that I would bring to the notice of the honourable the Chief Engineer and that is about the temporary engineers of his service. This is a special point that most of us feel on, and that is that many of the temporary engineers are being dispensed with after three to ten years of good service. I do not say that Government should not retrench and should not save money, that is of course a general demand on the part of every member of this House, but what I want to press on the Chief Engineer is this, that Government should not have recruited new men knowing that they will have to do away with these temporary men. What they have done is that they recruited new men, I do not know the real number, but I understand that they did recruit even this year and last year knowing fully well that they will have to reduce this temporary staff......

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: Do you refer to Irrigation Branch or the Buildings and Roads Branch ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: I am referring to the Irrigation Branch. This is really a great hardship and creates a lot of discontentment among the cadre that after eight or seven years' service they are going to be turned out for no fault of their own. I would refer again to the Education Department and one very important point that I want to impress on the mind of our Honourable Minister for Education is that, perhaps he is well aware of that, there is a great demand for the reform of the constitution of the University and it is a very long—standing demand. I request him that taking lesson from his colleague, the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government, who has taken up the Executive Officer Bill so soon after coming into office which, I believe, is a very important measure, he should take the reform of the constitution of the University in hand as early as possible. I also refer him to one more point and that is as regards the Text-Book Committee. I have the honour of sitting on the Compulsory Education Committee which was appointed by this House and the evidence that is being collected and the witnesses who have come before us have invariably stated that unless and until you have members on this Text-Book Committee with a rural bias you cannot improve the text of the books that are being taught in these primary schools. One non-Muslim gentleman, a very important personage, pressed this point very much and he gave the example that he had seen in text-books درخت کا بچہ. Therefore I would say that members who are well acquainted with the rural and village life should be appointed on the Committee; otherwise, the books that are being taught at the

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present moment in primary schools will not be of very great use. Then I would just like to say a word or two in the way of warning or of friendly advice to the Government and that is, that a great deal of discontent exists in the country and the feeling is prevalent among the masses that the money that is being raised in the shape of taxes or in the shape of land revenue, whatever it may be, is not being spent on them usefully and most of that is being eaten up by the top-heavy administration. This is the general feeling and I must warn the Government at this stage. Despite the happy news of this morning that there has been peace (*hear, hear*) and, therefore, the hope that the political situation will be more easy, the economic struggle will go on for ever whether this Government is to be run by our honourable friend just opposite (Sir Henry Craik) or by Dr. Gokul Chand Narang or by even Dr. Muhammad Alam. The fact is that the feeling is that it must be run with advantage to the poor classes, and unless and until we do something by which we show that we feel for these poor classes from whom the main items of our revenue are to be raised, there cannot be peace or contentment in the country.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders, General) : Sir, the Honourable Member for Finance and the Financial Secretary deserve our best thanks for having put before the Council a lucid explanation of the finances of the province as they have existed in the past and as they are to be in the year which is about to begin. I notice three main features of the budget arrangements to which I shall draw the attention of the Council. In the first place, he proposes no fresh taxation, secondly, he hopes to continue the retrenchments which were introduced in the year which is about to expire and with the help of those retrenchments he expects to keep the finances of the province in a stable condition. Thirdly, it has been proposed that the Government will be compelled not to treat the beneficent departments in the generous spirit in which they would have been treated if the financial conditions of the province had been better. Well, so far so good. But I agree with the last speaker that the estimate about receipts is a little bit too optimistic. From graph No. 2 I find that the receipts from Stamps are expected to be Rs. 115 lakhs as compared with Rs. 115 lakhs in the year which is about to close, the receipts from Excise also expected to be the same as this year, *i.e.*, Rs, 108 lakhs, the receipts from Irrigation, Rs. 444 lakhs as against 405 and the receipt from Land Revenue, Rs. 290 lakhs as against 268 lakhs. I will begin from the bottom and take up the revenue receipts and the receipts from Irrigation. It seems to me that this increase of nearly 22 lakhs in the receipts from Land Revenue is due to the fact that some more land will be brought under cultivation and put under revenue assessment in the Nili Bar, but at the same time I apprehend that the conditions in the Eastern Punjab and the extreme west are so bad that we are not likely to get all the revenue that we expect. The case of two districts of Gurgaon and Hissar has been specially referred to by the Honourable Finance Member in his speech. In both these districts there has been for the last three years a succession of bad harvests. In both these districts latterly relief works had to be started owing to famine. Now the number coming to relief works is not an exact indication of the number who really

need help and who are in need. There must be, besides these men who come to the relief works for wages, a large number of individuals who probably get only one meal a day. Then we find that winter rains in both these districts have not been sufficient. The rains that we have been having in February and March since the Council sat are not likely to have benefited materially the crops in *barani* tracts. In the *nehri* tracts they were useful inasmuch as they washed away the rust which had collected on account of the continuance of clouds, but in the *barani* tracts gram crop is a very important crop and I think that the present rains are bad for gram. Besides the tracts which have suffered from successive bad harvests must be given time to rehabilitate their condition. I do not think that it will be a wise policy on the part of the officers to recover suspended revenue at once. Complaints have come to me from Gurgaon that efforts have been made to recover suspended revenue or to recover at least suspended local rates and the effect of it has been very badly felt by the poorer land owners. I am perhaps not making a very big request if I ask Government to issue an order that, in those tracts in which there has been a succession of bad harvests for three or four years past and in which the winter rains have not been as copious as they should have been, there should be no recovery of suspended revenue in this *rabi*. By the extreme western districts I mean Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan and Multan. Multan has no perennial canal. Muzaffargarh has been very badly hit and the financial condition of agriculturists is said to be very bad. Dera Ghazi Khan is not very prosperous. I do not know what estimates have been framed in respect of land revenue from these districts. But considering the totals given in the graph to which I have referred probably optimistic estimates have been framed.

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Passing on to the head of Irrigation, I find that there is an increase of nearly Rs. 39 lakhs expected in the coming year. That is probably due to the increase of *abiana*. (*The Finance Secretary* : Reduction of working expenses.) Whatever the cause may be, with regard to water rates let me invite the attention of the Honourable the Revenue Member to the low prices to which I need not refer too frequently. The price of wheat has fallen down to a level which existed, I think, nearly forty years ago. Let the Honourable the Finance Member compare the water rate that was imposed for wheat forty years ago with the existing rate. The price of other produce of land has also gone down. *Gur* is selling very cheap, oil seeds are very cheap while the price of cotton has gone down considerably. The reduction of *abiana* which was allowed in *kharif last*—I was not here then and I do not know the exact terms of that concession, though I know what its effect has been on land owners—was confined to cotton and to rice. I do not think that in the estimate of receipts from water rates, it is intended to continue this concession for the next *kharif* crop. It is, however, unnecessary at the present stage to go into the conditions which will exist when the *kharif* crop is sown and when it is to be harvested. Let me point out to the Honourable the Revenue Member that the price of wheat, low as it is at present, will be lower still and most of the zamindars pay their *abiana* and land revenue from what they get as the price of produce at the time of the harvest ; and, if wheat sells in the villages at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 a maund in the next harvest, as we fear it will, the sale proceeds will be entirely insufficient to meet the

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water rate which is now imposed on wheat and some sort of reduction or concession will be necessary. For that reason I hold that even if some additional water rate is expected from the Nili Bar, the estimate of water rate from other tracts of the Punjab is probably optimistic.

Coming to the head "Stamps" and "Excise" I find there is no lowering of the estimates as compared with last year. The prices in the province were fairly high at the time of the last harvest. They began to fall soon after the harvest was brought to the market. The lowest depth was reached, strange to say, at the time of sowing of the wheat crop. The estimated sum of Rs. 115 lakhs for the year 1931-32 was probably the figure which was put in last year at the time of the preparation of the budget. Even if that represents the revised figure the effect of the fall in prices at present and in the three or four months to come will be materially felt on litigation in the province in the next year, and I do not think that the sale from stamps will be as great next year as it was in 1931-32. I, therefore, think that the estimate under this head is also a bit optimistic.

In regard to excise although the picketting movement is promised to be released yet I think the resources of the consumer will be crippled to such an extent that I consider the receipt estimated from this head to be also excessive. I fully agree with the honourable member who has just finished his speech that the estimate for the price of land about to be sold in the Nili Bar at Rs. 66 lakhs is also excessive. (*The Honourable Finance Member*: It represents sums on purchases already made.) I am glad to hear that part of it is on account of land already sold *plus* price to be recovered in the course of the year, although the Council has recommended that there should be a complete remission of that amount, for, that, of course. is impossible. However, if this estimated amount contains any part of the price which is to be recovered from new sales it has, I think, to be taken with a pinch of salt. I think it will be bad policy on the part of Government to put land on the market at present. Government ought to wait for better financial conditions before it decides to sell the land. At present the sale price of land has gone down considerably, at least for agricultural purposes, and I believe that that rate will also tell on the price of building sites except in popular cities like Lahore where people wish to leave congested and overcrowded areas and go into areas more open, having better air and with better ventilation.

I wish to make no observations of a general nature under the head of expenditure. I have listened to the criticism which my honourable friend who spoke last had to urge in regard to certain items of expenditure. I have, however, no criticism to offer with regard to the general policy recommended in the Budget. It seems to me if there are any special items of expenditure which are excessive the matter will come for discussion at the time of voting of demands. I do not think the present conditions of the province justify my asking for any large outlay on the development of industries although I think that is the greatest need not only of this province but of the whole country. A greater part of the unrest which we see in the country is due to unemployment and there is no other way of removing unemployment than by giving some impetus for the development of industries, not only industries on a large scale needing very large capital but industries even on a small scale. The whole working of the Industries Department needs a thorough

examination and deserves full encouragement. But I do not think that in the present financial conditions of the province I can recommend with any strength of heart an overgenerous treatment. If the estimate of receipts is optimistic and if we cannot expect much from capital receipts of land or the sale of land, how are the requirements of the province to be met ? The Council has by two separate resolutions proposed two methods, but it seems to me that there are limitations on both and that we shall not be able to raise much either by retrenchment or by fresh taxation. The difficulties in the way of retrenchment have been fully described by the Honourable the Finance Member so far as they deal with the salaries and emoluments of Government servants. The matter was fully discussed in this Council a few days ago and there is great force in the argument that you cannot attack vested interests and deal with the salaries of gazetted servants in an ungenerous manner. If you did so you would produce a feeling of insecurity which is highly undesirable. Retrenchment in other directions has been properly thought out and introduced. Moreover, a retrenchment committee has been appointed and will do its work and make certain proposals. A committee has also been appointed to devise fresh sources of taxation. I look upon both these resources to be exiguous. It seems to me, therefore, that we may have to raise either a loan from the Government of India as we did a few years ago to meet our revenue account or a public loan. In the case of a public loan I would draw the attention of the Honourable the Revenue Member to the necessity of expediting the survey of the Bhakra dam. This project when taken in hand and completed will give relief to a number of districts which need that relief very badly now. I find that even the survey has not been completed if I am to judge from the estimates given. The estimated cost of the survey work only is shown to be Rs. 24 lakhs and of this, only Rs. 8,32,000 will have been spent on survey by the end of next year. So a great deal of even the survey work will remain unfinished. If the survey work goes on in such a dilatory manner it will be a long time before we will be able to launch on the project. This project is a very necessary one. If a public loan is proposed to be raised I would suggest that it be for a sufficiently large sum so that all the necessary preliminary preparations for the work may be completed soon and the project launched at the earliest possible moment.

There is one other point to which attention was invited by the previous speaker and also by the Honourable the Finance Member. It is that a part of the capital has been spent on revenue account. This was of course a matter of necessity. As long as only a small amount, say, Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 50,000, is diverted to Revenue Account, it would be obviously inconvenient or undesirable to have recourse to a loan. It was admitted by the Finance Member himself that we should not devote our capital receipts to current expenditure. If we did so in successive years we would be apt to forget that we owed so much to the capital account that we would never be able to restore. Therefore I would suggest that if and when a public loan is raised, the whole amount which has so far been spent from the capital receipts under revenue account should be added together and a sufficient loan raised so as to enable us to replenish the capital account by what we have spent out of it under Revenue Account.

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Now, with regard to the recent events that have materialised of which we have received information only this morning, namely, the successful termination of the negotiations which have been going on in Delhi for some time and the conclusion of peace, all that I can say is that if conditions improve and if our expectations are fulfilled, the expenditure on the maintenance of the police force ought to go down. I am unable to suggest any material reduction at the present moment, because when I looked up this book of new expenditure I found that provision had been made only for the next six months. At present I am unable to say that there will be no necessity for maintaining the additional police for the next six months simply because of the events of the past few days. I hope that as soon as the necessity for the additional police ceases that expenditure will be cut down.

Mr. E. Maya Das (Non-official, nominated) : I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary on the budget that they have presented to this Council. One who prepares the budget should both be a pessimist and an optimist—a pessimist regarding receipts and an optimist regarding expenditure. He will have to solve many problems and work out his budget in such a way that he should in the end come out on the safe side.

One of the things in which the people of this province are greatly interested is public health. When we have health we have everything. In this connection I feel I must congratulate the Government for the increasing amount of public health work they have been doing. From my personal experience of the district from which I come I should say that the health department has proved to be a most useful department. Oftentimes, their officers have gone to places where there were signs of the breaking out of an epidemic and successfully prevented it from breaking out and spreading. Formerly it used to be a long time before any help could come ; even when help came the Civil Surgeon, single-handed as he was, used to find it hard to deal with the situation, with the result that many hundreds died of the epidemic. But all that has changed now with the ever-increasing activities of the Public Health Department.

At this time when everyone is suggesting ways and means of increasing revenue I also want to make a few suggestions in my own humble way. Here is one source from which the Government can get some revenue. In the Ferozepore district there are motor lorries running from one end to the other and they are not contributing their share towards the public funds. These lorries use both the municipal roads and the district board and Government roads, but the municipalities alone levy a small fee as ground rent and take it all away without giving a portion of it to the district board. Why not Government levy a fee on these lorries ? Stage carriages have to pay one anna per rupee and the amount is collected at the stands. Nobody is realising any fee from these motor lorries. I bring this matter to the notice of Government that here is an indirect source of revenue which they may tap. It does not matter whether the Government takes it or the district board takes it ; it will be some money gained to the public and can be usefully spent. There is an Indian State adjoining Ferozepore and there is a road connecting Ferozepore to that State. The State authorities realise a large

sum of money from the lessee of the vehicle stand. This money is realised on the basis of the long stretch of road that the motor lorry travels in the British territory. I feel that it is not a fair arrangement by which the money which ought to go to the British territory goes to an Indian State.

I wish to say a word about monopolies. Perhaps I may be wrong in the way in which I look at it, but anyhow I do not understand why so many people who are prepared to pay a fairly large sum for running motor services on particular roads are not allowed to do so. If the people are prepared to observe proper safeguards, have fixed rates and observe speed restrictions and so on, and if in addition to that they are prepared to keep the road in good order and pay some money to Government, it will be a paying proposition and worth enquiring into. Indirectly it will be doing good to some people. At present there are many motor cars lying idle. Several people think that they can make a pile of money by buying a car and running a service and with this object they mortgage or sell their lands and buy a car. Often they find they cannot run a service and the result is their cars are standing idle.

Another small source from which Government can get some income is the cattle fairs. Of course, in this case the income would go to the pockets of the district boards, but even so, if the district board is financially in a good position Government need not make as large a contribution to it as they have to do at present. In this matter it will be very interesting if we compare the Jullundur division with the Indian States all round. Of course Jullundur division is smaller in area than the Indian States all round. But while Jullundur division gets about Rs. 70,000 from the cattle fairs the Indian States get about Rs. 4,00,000. It is not because we cannot have more fairs in the British territory, but the fairs in the States have been long established and become popular with the result that people from the British territory go across to those States to attend the fairs, and a lot of money flows from the British territory into those States. I have often felt that there is need for some machinery which would co-ordinate the efforts of the various districts in regard to these fairs, in fixing dates and places and so on. At present each district fixes its own date and often dates clash with one another. It would be very useful for all concerned if some such machinery was brought into existence.

With regard to curtailment of expenditure I have one small suggestion to make. Usually Government Officers are transferred from station to station once in five years. As this is an exceptional year we might postpone such transfers even though an officer has been in his station for five years.

I want to say a word about motor accidents. Often we see in the papers cases of motor cars having been turned upside down resulting in loss of life to several persons. I feel that the examination of these motor drivers is not sufficiently strict. I doubt if their eye-sight and power of hearing are tested at the time they are granted the license. If the driver cannot hear properly he cannot hear the hoots of another car and if he cannot see properly he cannot see a vehicle or a tree or some other object in front of him especially when there is not much light. Thus there are chances of accidents taking place. I think that a rule should be made making eye and ear testing obligatory before a license is granted. In addition I would request Government to consider the question of compelling these motor

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drivers to take out insurance policies covering third party risks also. I do not want to make any suggestion as to the exact amount for which they should insure, but I think that a policy for something like Rs. 2,000 would be useful. The driver will then be a bit more careful and the passengers also will have a sense of security. They will feel that if there was any accident there would be some hope of compensation for them.

Sir, in the matter of district uoard primary schools I wish to point out that District Boards are empowered to open primary schools but they are not empowered to close them. I am unable to understand why this power of closing schools has been withheld from district boards. I think the greater fear is that District Boards will open too many schools rather than close too many. My own experience is that there are occasions when they wish to close certain schools but are not able to do so because they do not possess that power.

I wish to say a word about the drink question. I wish to suggest that a list of books dealing with this great question and suitable for school boys be prepared and such books as are found to be fit for boys should be made a part of their text. No country can bring about prohibition without a lot of preparation and without a change of thought and a change of mentality in the attitude of the people. It has taken America a long series of years and even yet they are fighting this matter hard, but the real success which they have obtained is by means of books written in simple language, that is to say scientific literature drawing the attention of children to this matter that it is harmful. In what way can it be shown that it is harmful ? Take the railway accidents which take place. In 95 cases out of a hundred it will be seen that the driver was drunk at the time the accident took place. Take the instance of the lunatic asylum. If the past histories of the lunatics are looked up it will be found that at least 80 per cent. of the inmates had parents who were strong drunkards. If statistics of this kind are placed in the hands of children, in thirty years' time when they are grown up, their attitude about this matter will have undergone an entire change and automatically the drink evil will disappear and with it all the difficulties regarding excise revenue will vanish of their own accord.

With your permission, Sir, I will make a reference to the Industrial School at Ferozepore. It is a Government Industrial School and whenever I have gone to see it, it has gladdened we great deal to see how happy the children in that school are. They are preparing themselves for the struggle of life and so far as my information goes, not a single child who has left that school has ever been out of employment. As soon as they go out they are able to earn from Re. 1 to Rs. 3 per day. Can we say the same of students who leave colleges ? An equal amount perhaps would suffice to run a small college and I place this matter for the consideration of the Council which is preferable—a small college or an industrial school ?

Before I sit down, Sir, I wish to make a small reference to the matter of lady health visitors. The Government has thought it fit to decrease the contribution that they used to make to local bodies for the purpose of engaging lady health visitors. I regret very much, Sir, that I do not see how I can agree with that idea. I think that in England the contribution which

Government makes to local bodies for the employment of lady health visitors is very much larger than what it is in the Punjab. I speak subject to correction, but if it is so in England where people have had the advantage of civilisation for such a long time in this respect and where they have had experience also, then surely, Sir, lest the local bodies should get discouraged and give up employing lady health visitors, I think it would be most useful if Government were to reconsider this point.

Pir Akbar Ali (Ferozepore, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member and his colleagues who are responsible for the preparation of the Budget that has been placed before the Council. The different items in it have been so arranged and the intricacies of the figures have been explained in such a clear and concise manner that even a layman can easily understand them. Not only that, if one were to read this big volume from one end to the other, one feels a spirit running throughout which convinces one that everywhere the interests of the province have been kept in view and that no pains have been spared to cut down the expenditure where it was possible to do so. If I were to go one step further I should say that the way in which this Budget has been prepared shows that they are Indians and not foreigners and thus proves the *boná fides* of these gentlemen and they really deserve the thanks of this Council as well as of this province. But one thing I must point out and that is not to the discredit of the Honourable Finance Member or his colleagues. The mentality of different persons is different and it is not necessary that the light in which I look upon a matter should be the same as that of every other person viewing it. Similarly, I beg to differ from the view which the Finance Department has taken of the future conditions and upon which it has based its estimates. To me these conditions appear in a different light. It appears that the Finance Department has assumed that the conditions which obtained some four years back and at the time of the last *rabi* and *kharif* crops will continue to prevail next year. They will rather improve than grow worse in the opinion of that department. I wish that this expectation of the Finance Department is fulfilled. I wish that the prices of agricultural produce may rise high; they have risen a little now. But the pity is that things do not always happen according to our wishes. I do not and cannot persuade myself to see things in the same light in which the Honourable Finance Member seems to have seen them. I do not happen to be as optimistic as he appears to be. I cannot close my eyes against hard facts. I understand that the people in the commercial world have already bargained to purchase wheat in June and July next at a low rate of Rs. 1-8-0 per maund. And then the wheat crop this year does not promise to be as good as it was last year. In many parts of the province the rain has either not fallen or if it has fallen, it has not fallen in time and as such, at many a place the wheat crop has already dried up before it could mature. So much about the tracts which depend mostly on rainfall. I understand that in the canal areas as well, this crop is not very much promising and the reason of it, so far as I know about the Ferozepore district, is that water supply is abruptly cut short in the months of January and February each year. At least this state of affairs we have been witnessing on the Abohar Branch of the Sarhand Canal for the last four years.

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I shall be excused if I dilate on this point and say that during the last four years we have seen that the water-supply in this branch during the months of November and October, that is, at the time of the sowing of the crops, has been abundant and the zamindars have been able to sow wheat and other *rabi* crops over a very large area. But every year during this period we have found that the water-supply has been cut short at a very critical moment resulting in the partial, if not total, failure of the crop. At this time of the year the water has been supplied always to the Patiala State at the cost of the zamindars of the Ferozepore district and the zamindars have naturally begun to doubt the *bonâ fides* of the Government in this matter.

Now you can imagine as to what the conditions will be during the next year and how far the estimates of the Finance Department will turn out to be correct. In preparing these estimates Government has made another mistake. It has taken it for granted that the prices of agricultural produce will rise. Admitting that this will happen, but this rise in the prices may happen in the latter part of the year when it is not going to help the zamindars. As practical men we ought to know that the zamindars of this province cannot afford to store their produce till the time the prices are likely to go up. They have perforce to dispose of the produce of their lands at once. Next year they will have no option but to do so. The reason of it is that even in the last year most of the zamindars, who had seen three or four prosperous years and who had, therefore, something to fall back upon, had to pawn or sell their ornaments and other valuables to pay land revenue and *abiana*, others had some credit left to borrow money to pay the Government dues. They have thus exhausted, so to say, their reserve and, therefore, they will have to sell their produce at once at whatever price they could, to pay land revenue and *abiana*, *taqavi* loans and other Government dues and also to return the money borrowed by them from the *sahukars*. It is almost certain that the *sahukars* will refuse, this time, to advance the zamindars money, as they are clever enough, to see that there is little or no prospect of the money so advanced being returned if conditions continue to prevail the same for some time. Under these circumstances it is not very difficult to judge that next year the zamindars, on whom the Government has built all its hopes, will not be the least better off as they will have nothing left to them after paying Government dues and meeting the demands of their creditors. And if they will have saved nothing, the result that will follow is too obvious to require mention. I need hardly remind the House that agriculture being the main, and I should say the only, industry of the province, the flourishing of every other trade and profession in this province depends upon the prosperity of the zamindars, and if we analyse this point further, we will surely come to the conclusion that there is no source of income of the Government which does not derive its strength from the main source of agriculture. If the prices of agricultural produce are very low, the zamindars are not only unable to pay in full land revenue and *abiana*, but they cannot feed any other trade or profession. They cannot afford to purchase opium and liquor. They will hesitate to go to courts to seek justice and even their creditors will think many times before they file a suit knowing it is well-nigh impossible to recover the loans

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and similarly the other departments are starved resulting in the loss of income to the Government from all its sources. While on this point I may mention that by the enhancement of stamp duty to 7 per cent. the Government has not gained. It has rather suffered a loss and will surely suffer a loss in future if the present conditions do not improve and they are not likely to improve very soon. The Government may say that it will stand to gain Rs. 2 for every hundred rupees, but it ought to know that under the present circumstances, litigants find it impossible to go in for even first appeal, not to speak of second appeal, which means that Government suffers a loss of Rs. 10 for every hundred rupees. That is surely no gain. Therefore Government will do well if it reduces the stamp duty at least to its original rate. There is yet another reason why the litigants grumble and that is that they have to pay at least one rupee to the readers and other petty clerks attached to the courts for every little service, say for ascertaining the date fixed for the next hearing of a case. For the examination of the records also they have to pay as much as two and three rupees and then the fee for obtaining a copy of a document has been abnormally increased. All these factors have combined to make justice in this province very dear. It is now time that the Government should come to the rescue of those who are anxious to seek justice. Such a step will not only help the litigants, but will also go to increase the income of the Government.

Before I take up the different heads of income and expenditure in the budget I want to say one or two words with regard to the all—absorbing topic of the day, *i.e.*, the peace that has been effected to-day. This peace has created two hopes in our minds. In the first place we hope that the prices of agricultural produce may rise and then we hope that the civil disobedience movement will come to an end and with it, the expenditure on the police department will decrease. The Government would have been well advised if it had not made a provision of 5 lakhs of rupees for the additional police. That would have indicated that Government on its side was truly anxious to bring to an end the present impasse and was sure that this agitation would not again disturb the peace of the country. I will take first of all the Revenue Department. I think I have made it abundantly clear in the first part of my speech that the estimates of the Finance Department have been prepared on a wrong assumption. There is very little likelihood of the prices going up and of the lands yielding as much produce as they yielded last year. The income from the Exise Department as well, is sure, in my opinion, to fall much below the expectation. I say so because in the first place the zamindars will not be able to feed this department as I have made it clear already and in the second place, because recently there have been brought about changes in the administration of the department which will rather make matters worse. The special Extra Assistant Commissioners in charge of this department used to do very useful work. At least I know that the Extra Assistant Commissioner who was at Ferozepore did a lot of work and he made it impossible for the smugglers to smuggle opium or any other drug. It was owing to his vigilant eye that many maunds of the smuggled opium captured by him had to be thrown into the river. It was the result of his efforts that for the last three or four years Government succeeded in getting 3 lakhs of rupees as an

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additional income from the sale of licenses and stoppage of illicit liquor and smuggling of opium in the Ferozepore district. He detected several cases at the risk of his life. At one of these raids I was also present and the offenders whom he had to face on that occasion were all armed and they belonged to the Faridkot State. If the services of such men are not recognised, they are sure to be discouraged. I have already dealt with the administration of justice and I will now proceed to say a few words with regard to the Public Works Department. The saving of 7½ lakhs of rupees that has been effected in this department is, in my opinion, very little. It appears to me that sufficient pains have not been taken to obtain every information with regard to the working of this department and the way in which the money is wasted on unnecessary construction. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to one case of this kind. About seven miles from Kahna Kachha there is a bridge which is no doubt a little too high but which was, all the same, serving the purpose for which it stood there. Now, at this juncture when we are so much hard pressed for want of money, another bridge at a distance of three yards from the previous bridge has been constructed which must have cost the Government at least thirty thousand rupees. In my opinion this is clearly a waste of money. We cannot gratify our fancies at this time. We should spend money only when it is absolutely necessary to do so. As they say we should cut our coat according to the cloth. I wonder how this construction was sanctioned, when Government is not prepared to undertake the repair of Ganda Singhwala road which is in a very bad condition and which ought, as a matter of necessity, to have been repaired. Many other instances of this type can be quoted which will show that much more saving could have been effected in this department if a little more effort had been made and if we could have saved some money, we could have utilised it on the beneficent departments.

Then, Sir, there is a general complaint of water-logging in the canal areas. Some proposals have been made regarding it and the Government is also taking some steps to remove this complaint. In addition to this complaint there is another and it is this, that on the new canals water-rate is charged according to the same rates and in some cases even more than that which is being charged on the old canals. The zamindars are also obliged to pay *khushhasiyati* tax. In the first place, the new canals are not perennial and then every now and then breaches occur in them. On account of these breaches of the Sutlej Valley Project much damage is caused to the Ferozepore district. As regards the Bikaner Canal, I may submit that water flows 9 feet deep and the sides of the canal are cemented. Men and animals frequently slip into the canal, only to be drowned as its sides are so slippery that it is impossible for them to come out. It would be in the interest of the public to put up some fences along the banks of this canal.

Next comes the question of administration of justice. The High Court has recently issued orders to the effect that for each head of animal the decree holder should deposit a monthly sum of Rs. 15 for its maintenance. Although this does not affect the zamindars for they are never so lucky as to become decree-holders, but still in the interest of justice we do feel that it is an

unreasonable burden on the decree-holders. If a decree-holder gets a cow attached he will have to deposit Rs. 15 for its maintenance. If the cow is not auctioned for three months he will have to pay Rs. 45 which is more than the price of the cow. Our sense of justice cannot tolerate it and our conscience does not allow us to see such an injustice being continued any longer.

Then, Sir, we are happy that the Government has concluded peace with the Congress. We hope that now the police force will be automatically reduced. As I have already stated in some speech we have got one complaint regarding this department. The trouble that makes it necessary to increase the police force always starts with the people living in the urban area, but in order to remedy that trouble the zamindars are required to pay the expenses. At the time when recruitment to this department is made the zamindar's rights are always ignored. They are asked to name the relatives already serving in the Police Department. How could relatives of the zamindars be found in the Police Department when they have not been allowed to enter this service. Recently a committee was formed at Ferozepore for the purposes of recruitment. It consisted of five non-official members. Out of these five there was only one who was an agriculturist, all the remaining members being non-agriculturists and all the officials also were non-agriculturists. Under these circumstances it is not possible for the zamindars to get admission into the Police Service. They are very loyal no doubt but some day it will come about their that sympathies are alienated by treatment like this.

Then, Sir, there is the Education Department. The reduction that has been made in its expenditure is quite unjustified. The demand for opening new schools is increasing day by day. The Government should have done better if it had not curtailed its expenditure in this direction. There are some defects in the department which require the immediate attention of the Government. I specially draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction towards the books that are prescribed by the Text Book Committee for the primary and middle schools. Previously the books written by Muhammad Husain Azad were taught in the schools. Now they have been replaced by the books written by third rate writers. These books are very defective inasmuch as they are demoralising and strain the students' power of understanding. They are defective as regards their style and language. The books written by Muhammad Husain Azad were quite good and had a great educational value. Once I happened to read the preface of a history book. There it was stated that the book was written in the Urdu language in order to encourage Urdu learning in addition to acquiring the knowledge of history. The portion of the book which was written by Azad was free of defects of all kinds but the additions that were made in the later editions were full of glaring defects. There were mistakes of language to cause dissatisfaction to any sensible reader. I request the Government to do something to improve the text books. Moreover, in the Education Department economy can be effected by bringing some of the posts under reduction. First of all there are the Personal Assistants to the District Inspectors. They serve no purpose. They have no work and are only a useless burden on the Government. Once on being enquired I was told that the Personal Assistant of the Ferozepore district

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had prepared a seniority list. A clerk getting Rs. 20 a month could have very well done it. Again there are the Deputy Inspectors. If they are made to work independently by having in their charge like Sub-Divisional Officers, some districts I think they can prove themselves more useful. At present the work of a Deputy In-spector is no more than that of a Personal Assistant of the Divisional Inspector. An honourable friend of mine has stated that as people are not interested in education the schools should be closed and thus a saving be made in the expenditure. For his information I may state that the demand for opening new schools is so great that even the members of criminal tribes come to us and request us to open schools for the benefit of their children. The people of the rural areas intensely desire that instead of the vernacular schools there should be English schools opened in the villages. But unfortunately we are unable to open new schools on account of the present distressing conditions.

Now, I come to the Medical Department. Some of the hospitals that are opened in the rural areas are doing useful work but at the same time there are many others which are quite useless. They have no work and in order to show some work they make false entries in their registers. I may also say a few words here in connection with the Health Department. The Health Department has also got practically little work. In our district Rs. 7,000 are set aside every year to maintain a staff whose duty it is to check the spread of plague. At present this staff has got no work and the expenditure that is incurred on its account amounts to a sheer waste of public money.

Now, I draw your attention to the Department of Industries. The officers of this department open a few schools and workshops in the towns and think their work done. They never make sincere attempts to encourage agricultural industries. The industry of lac can be encouraged in the villages but no one cares to encourage and develop it for the benefit of the zamindars. The Honourable the Minister incharge of Industries has always claimed that he loves the zamindars. By appearance he is a zamindar. His body is hardy and his hands are brawny and strong like these of a zamindar. Now that the department is under him I hope he will give practical proof of his love by encouraging the agricultural industries.

In the end, I will make a few general submissions regarding the condition of the zamindars. At the time of the rectangular survey in connection with the digging of water courses zamindars are required to pay Rs. 3 per acre. This is a sort of fine that is imposed on them as really no water courses are made but only demaration is done for which Rs. 3 per acre are charged. In my opinion they should not be made to pay this sum and if necessary they should be required to do this work themselves. Again, Sir, in the district of Jullundur the water level has fallen and after a few years it is feared that irrigation by wells would become impossible. I request the Government to ameliorate the irrigation conditions of that district by building a canal through it. Similar is the case of the Mianwali district. This district depends for irrigation on rain alone. It had suffered much loss on account

of the floods. At present the *rabi* crop is not very encouraging. The Government should not only grant to the zamindars of this district remissions of land revenue but should also not demand back the *taqavi* loans advanced to them last year. The districts of Gurgaon and Hissar are also in the grip of distress. The Government has very kindly advanced a helping hand to the zamindars and we feel highly grateful for it. I hope the Government will very kindly adopt the same generous attitude towards the zamindars of all other such areas. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (Multan Division, Non-Muhammadan, Rural): As is customary I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary on the hard work they have done in putting this Budget before the House. Considering that this year was one in which there could not have been much income in various directions I am very glad that they have tried their best by their hard work to reduce the deficit to Rs. 47 lakhs. I should however observe that more reduction should have been made in one department at least and that is the police. Since the introduction of the Reforms if there has been any one department where expenditure has gone on increasing it is the police. I remember when I was a member of the first Council it used to be about one crore. It is now Rs. 1,22,82,000. It can of course be said that this increase of expenditure is due to political agitation in the province. But this has been there only for the last two years. I fail to understand why since the Reforms have been introduced the expenditure has gone up by nearly Rs. 25 lakhs. Now that the conciliation has taken place this expenditure can easily be brought down. I heard from the Honourable the Finance Member some time ago that a good deal of money had to be spent on watch and ward, that something like 400 extra police were engaged in order to keep ward at officers' bungalows. Now I suppose that danger is nowhere and if the entire 400 cannot be dispensed with, at least 200 can be easily reduced. That is my suggestion made in very good faith. I do not wish that any danger should come about to these officers but I feel that as the civil disobedience movement has been absolutely stopped this expenditure can also be reduced. I see from the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member that an additional sum of Rs. 5 lakhs will be required in the coming year. At least this sum can be saved, after this conciliation has been effected.

As regards the question of loans, a loan has to be and shall be taken whenever it is required. But I never agree that the taking of a loan is a good idea for, once you take a loan it has to be paid back. If you cut the coat according to the cloth, you need not have recourse to a loan. The Honourable the Finance Member says that the best banker is the Government of India and from them, he can easily take a loan. If one can easily take a loan it does not follow that one should always depend upon a loan. I should submit that the expenditure has to be reduced. How it will be will depend upon the proper working of the Retrenchment Committee and upon Government accepting the suggestions of that committee, and not doing as was done some years ago when such a committee was appointed but its recommendations were not fully carried out.

The next point that I wish to criticise is the selling of State lands. That is not at all a good policy. As my honourable friend, the representative

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of the Punjab land-owners and leader of our party has already stated, it is a great mistake to sell lands this year. I know that Government is going to sell large areas of land in Montgomery district in the month of March. That sale ought to be stopped because in these days any one could have a square at Rs. 6,000 or 7,000. If lands are sold this year it will be a great loss to Government. I have already submitted this point to the Financial Commissioner, Development. On the whole I am against the sale of lands at all because selling of State lands is not good in policy. You sell them and spend the money away and in course of time there will be no property left and all the money realised so far by the sales are not being invested anywhere but spent away. For this reason land should never be sold when Government can make a good deal of money by giving land on temporary cultivation. I know in these days the rate for temporary cultivation is very high and Government can make a lot of money by giving land on temporary cultivation instead of selling it. That is my suggestion from a business point of view and if Government accepts it, it will be able to retain all the Crown waste lands in its possession and yet make money on them by giving them on temporary leases instead of selling them altogether.

The Honourable the Finance Member has evinced much anxiety that this year the income will be less owing to want of winter rains. I am sure his anxiety will be allayed because the rains have come and will, I think, do a fair amount of good to the crops whether irrigated or unirrigated.

The one department that always makes me feel that too much money is being spent with very little return, is the Forest Department. Although attempts are being made by showing films, etc., that the Forest Department is a very important department bringing a lot of income, from the report of the very department the income for this year is shown to be only Rs. 2 lakhs. I suppose that after deducting all the expenditure on it, it will provide a net profit of Rs. 2 lakhs. I am not sure on the point whether that is the net income or it represents only the income by the sale of timber and the expenditure has not much to do with it. I should like to be enlightened how much the net income of the department will be after deducting all the money spent on it.

The Honourable the Finance Member at page 11 of the budget speech takes great delight in running the Co-operative Department. This department is the only department which is not run on business lines at all. It is a very useful department, I know, and the zamindars should gain much from it though the fact is that they do not. I find that a good deal of interest is being charged, as much as 8, 9 or 10 per cent. Where does the zamindar gain by it? He gets out of the clutches of the money-lender only to fall into the clutches of these societies. What is the good of having these societies if they charge up to ten per cent. interest? If the rate of interest charged is 5 or 6 per cent. the zamindar can be said to be benefited, but when he has to pay 10 per cent. there is not much of benefit. I should like to know who pays for the department. It is the Government that pays for it from top to bottom. I should like to know—I have not been able to find from the budget—how much money does the Government spend and how much it realises on the co-operative department. Officials of the depart-

ment like the Registrar, Sub-Registrar, Inspector and the rest of them are all paid by Government. They are not paid from the interest made by the societies. If it is to be made useful this department should be run on entirely business lines. The whole expenditure from one end to the other on the co-operative department must be met out of the income realised from the interest which the societies get from the zamindars. That is what I should like to observe about co-operative societies and I hope, if it is considered proper, the Retrenchment Committee will further go into the question.

I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member that he has reduced the expenditure under travelling allowances. Travelling allowance bills of officers, especially irrigation officers who go from 30 to 40 miles and come back to the head-quarters in a day, often swell to enormous amounts. I have known of a definite case where the officer's travelling allowance exceeded his salary and I am told there are many cases of that kind. I am very glad—and I voice the feelings of the zamindars—that the Honourable the Finance Member has been able to reduce this huge item. He deserves special congratulations on this score.

My honourable friend, Sardar Habibullah, has already mentioned the case of temporary engineers. It is stated in the Honourable the Finance Member's speech that they are being reduced on account of the Sutlej Valley Project coming to an end. We have been asking question after question in almost every Council that the Bhakra Dam Project must be started, and that the Haveli Project must be taken in hand. The western districts like Muzaffargarh and part of Multan will benefit much by the Haveli while the Bhakra Dam Project will benefit the whole of Hissar and Rohtak districts. We have been urging even to raise a loan as soon as the Government thought necessary. These are schemes on which the zamindars have been keen for many years and Government has been trying to evade them. I submit that the projects should be immediately started and all the temporary engineers who are going to be dismissed, and on whom notices have been served, to be put on them. It is very hard that people who have served for as many as 15 years and who are well over 45 years of age, although they are temporary, should be asked to go home. There is no business that they can start, no work that they can take up. While on the one hand I have mentioned retrenchments to be effected, I make the suggestion on the other that these people should be kept in service and put on the two projects as soon as possible.

I see from the Honourable the Finance Member's speech that a good deal of money has been cut down from the beneficent departments. Reserved departments have been allowed to go on as usual, except Irrigation providing two and a half lakhs. (*The Finance Secretary* : 6½ lakhs under General Administration). I am not able to find it on this page. Another point is that Rs. 8½ lakhs has been cut under Education. I find from the memorandum that in 1930-31, Education got Rs. 174.5 lakhs while in 1931-32 the amount has increased to Rs. 176 lakhs. I should like to know how Rs. 8½ is cut when Rs. 1½ lakh more is given. (*The Honourable the Finance Member* : That is for the current year.)

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

The Honourable the Finance Member said that he has reduced the expenditure on the repair of roads and buildings. It is a bad policy to retrench expenditure on the repair of roads and buildings. I have travelled on many roads and I can say from personal experience that many roads are getting into disrepair and means of communications have become very bad. The Communications Board of which I have the honour to be a member has been starved for the last two years. No grant has been given to the Board. Even such a big road as the road to Lyallpur and to the Frontier, *i.e.*, the Sharakpur-Lyallpur road and arterial roads in many places are in a bad condition. Unless sufficient funds are placed at the disposal of the Communications Board how can they keep these roads in good condition. On the other hand, as the honourable member for Lahore, Rural, Sardar Habibullah, has mentioned Government are spending a lot of money on building new bungalows for officers. Why does not Government leave this work of building bungalows in the hands of private capitalists? They can easily build bungalows and rent them to officers. I do not think that Government get an adequate return on the capital invested in these bungalows. I do not think they get even 3 to 4 per cent. on the capital invested. For six months the bungalows in Lahore are vacant and fetch no rent and for six months the bungalows in Simla are vacant and fetch no rent. Do not the Government depend on private capitalists to build houses in the out-stations in the districts? Why should they not do the same thing in Lahore? Why should they waste a lot of money on laying roads and planting trees for the bungalows of these officers while this money can be well spent on the repair of roads in the whole of the province.

As regards the Hydro-Electric schemes the Finance Member has told us how much he will require for this year. He has not given us an idea of how much more will be required before the project is completed.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Six and-a-quarter crores.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I see that it is said that Government would require a little over a crore for the next year. I hope that the great critic of the Hydro-Electric scheme who is now himself in charge of that scheme will see that the expenditure on that head is reduced and that the project is completed as soon as possible so that it may begin to return some income on the money invested. I was told the other day that the power from the Mandi Hydro-Electric scheme will not be available to the factories and the zamindars at a low rate. If that was true I doubt very much if they could utilise the power. Some idea should be given of what the cost per unit will be, so that the factory owners may get together and make up their minds as to how much work they can take from this white elephant.

There is one matter about which I have had to complain many times and that is that court fees are not reduced. The stamp duty is at the same rate at which it was many years ago. When Sir John Maynard raised it to 3 per cent. he said that he would take steps to reduce the duty to its former level in two years' time. But though there have been many Finance Members after him we are still looking to the future to have this duty reduced. Since the duty has been raised very high, people have found

some ways of getting round it. In nine cases out of ten people do not get the documents registered, but they simply get an anna stamp receipt and thus evade registration. Government is thus losing a lot of money. On the other hand, if Government reduce the rate from 3 per cent. to 1½ per cent, I am sure the people will have an incentive to get their documents registered instead of getting an anna receipt as they do at present. Whether the people by adopting the present practice get a good title or not, it is for the law courts to decide; but they resort to it on account of the high cost of registration. I think it is a point to be considered by the Retrenchment Committee whether Government will not get more income by reducing the duty to 1½ per cent. as was the case before.

I am sorry that taxes on motor cars have not also been reduced. This was also one of the taxes which the then Finance Member, who introduced it, said would be restored to its old level in a couple of years.

With regard to the Excise Department, Government get a fair amount of income from this source. I feel that Government have no right to make people drink and get so much money out of it. They get as much as a crore of rupees out of this department. I think that Government should not get so much money out of this source by raising the contracts and so on.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : There is the question of illicit distillation.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Government is afraid of illicit distillation. But there have been Governments before the British Government and they did not get any revenue from excise.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The honourable member is wrong in his history.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I must say that in the time of the Mughals and in the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh there was no Excise Department and Government got no revenue from the Excise Department.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The honourable member's history is wrong.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Sir, I come now to the Maclagan College of Engineering. I went through their recent report and was shocked to find that some Rs. 10,00,000 have been spent on the building of that college alone. When once Government start building they do not look to the right or to the left; they go on building, building and spending as much money as possible. If you look at the Maclagan College one would think that it is some palace built for the residence of some Nawab. If you want to construct a building for teaching mechanical engineering to students it is enough if you put up corrugated iron sheds. Where is the necessity for building such a huge palace at a cost of Rs. 10,00,000 ? What is the result of all this expenditure ? The report that I read the other day was the first report after five years of the existence of the college, and I found that only a few students have been trained and even these few students could get employment on the railways and other places only with great difficulty. What is the good of having a college at such a huge cost simply for training 10 or 12 students when there are hundreds of private people who are willing

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

to start commercial and mechanical colleges and other technical institutions ? Where is the return for all this expenditure when you only turn out a few students and even those students are unable to get employment ?

I have one complaint to make in regard to the admission to these colleges. I am very sorry to note that admission to these Government educational institutions is made on a communal basis, that is, that there should be 48 per cent. of students belonging to one community, 20 per cent. of students belonging to another community, and so on. This is the case with the Maclagan College, the Lyallpur Agricultural College and all the other Government educational institutions. I submit that admission to educational institutions should be based on ability only. If you say that students who have passed in the first division are to be taken in the Government college, stick to that principle and do not bring in communal considerations in the matter. If you bring in communal considerations in the matter of admission to schools and colleges you cannot turn out good and highly educated and qualified men. Admission should be on grounds of merit alone and should on no occasion be on communal grounds.

Last year I submitted that Government could get a large income from the sale of timber on canal plantations. I am glad that my honourable friend Mian Nurullah has been asking questions on this subject. I do not find any item in this budget showing any income from such plantations. There is a lot of timber on these canal banks which Government can easily sell and make a large amount of money. Especially on the Lower Bari Doab Canal and on the Lower Chenab Canal there is a lot of timber, but I am afraid they are never sold. Government ought to look into this matter as this is a good source of income.

I want to submit one important point for the consideration of the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government. The elections to the district boards are not at present conducted on any sound basis. I have to make special mention of the Lyallpur District Board where although the Hindu population is 10 per cent. not a single Hindu can be elected to the district board, because the constituencies are so arranged that the Hindus have absolutely no chance of getting in by election. Another trouble is that if a Hindu candidate cannot get in by election the communal inequality is not made up by nomination. The result is that for the last four years I have had the misfortune of being the solitary Hindu nominated member on the Lyallpur District Board. Even then, the majority community does not like to see me on any of the committees, because perhaps they think that even one Hindu is too much to be put on any committee. The same is the case in all the district boards in my constituency, *i.e.*, the Multan District Board, the Muzaffargarh District Board, the Dera Ghazi Khan District Board, the Montgomery District Board and all the district boards of the Western Punjab. We find that everywhere one community predominates over the other ; elections to the district board are not held on right lines. I do not wish to go to further details in this matter, but only wish to submit to the Honourable Minister that he should go into the defects of the electoral system of these district boards and municipalities and remedy the evil once for all.

Sir, I thank the House very much for having given me so much time to-day to speak on the budget.

Mian Nur Ullah [Lyallpur South, Muhammadan, Rural]:

> "The balancing of the budget or avoiding minus balances, though an admirable and difficult task in itself, does not show and is not a true indication of our real state of affairs. We have to face the real situation as it would come before us in the coming years."

These are the words, Sir, with which I opened my lips last year, and I do the same to-day.

This thing has been borne out by our experience this year, and I think to our bitterness it may be repeated with greater severity in the year to come; and great stress has been laid on the matter by the honourable member for the land-owners' constituency, Raja Narendra Nath, and Pir Akbar Ali, the honourable member from Ferozepore. That reminds me of a frequent quotation which I will read:

> "Myself when young, did eagerly frequent,
> Doctor and Saint and heard much argument
> About it and about, but evermore came
> By the same door, as in I went."

However, it was a pleasant surprise for me to see that the Honourable Finance Member by his intellectual ingenuity, as it were, and by rigid determination to economise and retrench, has brought before us a favourable budget. He has in any case taken off the fear of the tax-payer that he would be burdened with further taxation and on that account I heartily congratulate him. The time of the financial statement is a time of greatest anxiety for the Finance Member, and now that he has come out of it so successfully I think we should encourage him as far as possible. The statement that he made before us on the 2nd was a merited statement and he laid all his cards on the table in such a way that I am unable to find much fault with it. Sir, I am glad to remark that the Honourable the Finance Member has forestalled a policy of retrenchment in earnest.

(*At this stage Mr. President left the chair and Deputy President occupied it*).

I hope the Retrenchment Committee that is going to be appointed will help him a good deal and point out many new lines of work. I have got many suggestions, and I hope when I get a chance I will go into the details and put them before the Committee.

Sir, all the members are anxious to see more retrenchment, and it should be the duty of the whole administration to investigate the whole matter from the very start. Some drastic changes and reforms are necessary right from the village administration to that of the Executive Council. I thank the Honourable Finance Member and the Finance Department that they have done so much for us, and I sincerely hope they will continue their policy in that direction. They have shown clearly that although our revenues are inelastic our expenditure is not.

Sir, maintaining as I do that our present provincial expenditure is still far too high and still quite out of tune with the capacity of the tax-payer, some fundamental changes are imperative. It is the duty of us, the legislators here, that we should look far ahead. It is possible that

[Mian Nur Ullah.]

I may be exposed to ridicule or I might be a generation or so ahead, but if we are to carry on the government in its truest sense, that is, for the benefit of the governed, I cannot help remarking that the present difference in the grades of salaries and the method of recruitment to the Provincial Services and the Indian Civil Service is far from satisfactory. In talking of this problem on page 16 the Honourable Finance Member said in his speech: "The case of future entrants into Government service stands, of course, on a different footing and raises very wide questions." This is one of those wider questions. I do not by any means suggest that the I.C.S. and the other Imperial Services should be abolished altogether. What I mean to say is that there should be only one service to start with and out of that service which may be paid much lower than we are paying the services, after a few years' experience, say three or four years, a selection should be made to the Senior Provincial and the Imperial Services. There should be no direct recruitment. And the salaries and grades should be much lower than to-day. This I am saying from the point of view of economy; persons specially qualified for those jobs and persons from overseas should be given more remuneration by way of special allowances to start with. The appointment to the higher services should be based on the fourfold test: of experience in work, brains, the standard of education and last, but not least, personality. Why should a duffer get into the I.C.S. and enjoy all the privileges of higher scale and better pay and an able man rot all his life in the P.C.S. when their responsibilities are the same and when the quality and quantity of work is about the same? I have said that personality should be one of the main factors, and I draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction that our educational system is defective to that extent. I would rather have a man in the Civil Service who has secured less marks in the written examination and has more commonsense or. in other words, who has personality. Has not the P.C.S. produced such able and tactful men as our present Commissioner of Lahore? Have not men risen from the ranks, from mere clerkships to be Executive Councillors of the Governor-General? I believe, Sir, that having once established this system we are bound to effect a very great economy, and then there will be no deficits in our finances and there will be no need for further taxation.

India is on the threshold of her heritage. We welcome the Reforms and hope that they will bring peace and prosperity. It is rather unfortunate that the next instalment of Reforms is coming when we are in the midst of a very deep economic depression. Reforms are very costly and we must try to be very economical. During the last ten years or so of Reforms the number of posts has increased out of proportion to the increase in the quantity of work. With this multiplication of posts nobody seems to feel the responsibility, and because there is no responsibility the standard of efficiency is going from bad to worse. What we should all try and it should be a united attempt is to reduce the number of posts and increase the efficiency.

Sir, in the present budget speech in paragraph 7 the Honourable the Finance Member said: "We have followed the usual practice of counting on a normal agricultural year and have, therefore, estimated our receipts at Rs. 56 lakhs higher than the revised estimate of the current year." This

matter has been referred to by the honourable member from Ferozepore and the honourable member representing landholders (Raja Narendra Nath). I am afraid our expectations in this respect would fall to the ground and instead of having an increase of Rs. 56 lakhs we may not have any increase at all, and I may say that unless the next *rabi* revenues are lowered—I am specially addressin: the Honourable Revenue Member and he is going out just now........

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I will take notes.

Mian Nur Ullah : Unless the revenues for the next *rabi* is substantially reduced or unless a rise in the price of produce takes place, I am afraid Government may not be able to realise more than 80 per cent. of the next *rabi* revenue. In this connection I would draw the attention of Government and try to advocate a policy based on some index number to which I referred last year. Whenever there is a rise in the prices the land revenue should be raised and whenever there is a fall in prices the land revenue should be lowered. There might be some sort of connection between the land revenue and the rise or fall in prices, and the scheme should not be difficult to work out. I would request the Honourable Revenue Member to get the Land Revenue Act amended to that effect, but if he is not prepared to do that, allow me to bring in a Bill to that effect. At least there should be some ranges of price fixed according to the index number, when the index number shoots above that range of prices we must change the land revenue, also when the index number falls below a certain point there might be a proportionate fall in the land revenue also.

The Honourable Finance Member in paragraph 5 of his budget speech has stated : "I think the Council will agree that it is wiser to employ one's own capital resources when one is hard up than to have recourse to the money-lender." I might be acting on this principle myself, but I can never allow it to be called a safe business principle. If once you begin to eat away your capital you will never agree to start a sinking fund to be able to replace that capital back again. The best way, therefore, is that a brake should at once be applied to the current annual expenditure. If you know that you have to pay so much, if you know that you have borrowed so much money, you will one day be compelled to save and pay it back.

In paragraph 6 of the Honourable Finance Member's speech he considers that the position is one of considerable gravity though not in his judgment one for despair. I quite agree with him, but if we do not carry on our progress and work of retrenchment, we might be gradually put into that hopeless position of despair, but I am glad that the Honourable Finance Member and the Finance Department are doing their best by way of retrenchment and by way of reducing our ordinary expenditure. A good example is set by them when the axe of retrenchment was used to prune down the big sum of Rs. 82 lakhs mentioned on page 6 of the speech to Rs. 52 lakhs. I wish similar reductions had been made somewhere else too.

I welcome the building up of the reserve account in our revenue as mentioned in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member. Any scheme coming forward for the sake of ensuring the land revenue payments would also be welcomed by us.

[Mian Nur Ullah.]

Referring to the order of taking up the demands as discussed in the Honourable Finance Member's speech where he suggests that the demands are taken up one year in the order from 1 to 41 and then in the second year from 41 back to 1, that is a good improvement. But I suppose it will be still better if we can turn over a certain number of demands each year. Supposing this year we go from demands 1 to 21, next year we should start from 21 and proceed as far as we can, say, up to 31. The third year we should start from 31 and go up to 41. If we do this we shall in the course of three or four years have discussed all the demands fully. That would, I think, be an improvement, and the Honourable Finance Member might take up this suggestion.

5 P.M.

Just a few words more. Last year I requested the then Honourable Finance Member about whom the present Finance Member said that he was a man of sterling character and genial temperament, whom we all miss to-day and about whom we all share the good feelings as expressed on page 1 of the budget speech, Sir Alexander Stow,—he was kind enough last year to take up my suggestion of reducing the size and shape of our unwieldy budget—he promised that next year it would be reduced by sixty pages or so. To-day I go in the reverse direction and want to suggest that one page may be added for the benefit of the new members describing or giving briefly the definitions of the more important terms used in the budget so that it may be understood easily.

One word more before I sit down. I draw the attention of the Honourable Finance Member and the honourable members of this House to the great necessity of encouraging the industrial development of this province, specially the subsidiary agricultural industries and industries in general as has been pointed out by other honourable members previously. That is the only solution of the unemployment question. I wish the Honourable Finance Member had squeezed out some more money from other departments just to apply it in this most important line.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit [Hoshiarpur, Non-Muhammadan, Rural]: Sir, I join with my honourable friends who preceded me in congratulating the Honourable Finance Member and his staff for the preparation of the budget which has got the merit of being very lucid and very clear. But unfortunately I cannot agree with them in the hopes that they have expressed that the present financial condition is not a matter for pessimism and that in course of time they will be able to overcome the deficit with which we are now faced. I have been at great pains in going through the pages of the bulky volumes of the budget, and I find after having read them and digested them that the Punjab is steadily going towards bankruptcy, and that if this rate of expenditure is kept up it would be very difficult for the Punjab finances to be put on a firm basis. There are two facts to which I shall draw the attention of the House. We have during the course of ten years, that is, during the reform period, burdened the province with taxation of over a crore of rupees in the shape of increased *abiana*, in the shape of increased duties on court-fees, motor taxes, and so on. Then, we have one other factor to take into account, and that is, the relinquishment of provincial contribution by the Imperial Government which was of over

a crore of rupees These sums of more than two crores of rupees have been swallowed up by the province, and there is really no satisfactory accounting for this great expenditure. We have now reached the very utmost limits of taxation and it is impossible to foresee that there is any method by which we can raise more revenue. As a matter of fact, Mr. Puckle in his Memorandum explanatory of the budget has put the situation quite correctly at page 14. This is what he says with regard to the general situation.

> "We have an income which is liable to fluctuate without warning between 10½ and 11½ crores. Against that we have to set expenditure which without allowing for any expansions automatically increases by about 11 lakhs a year. Up to the time last year when the decision to retrench in every direction was taken, the basic expenditure for the next five years was calculated to be 11,25 lakhs, increasing by 11 lakhs yearly. A normal year's income to-day is about 11 crores with a normal yearly rate of increase of about 10 to 12 lakhs. The problem is to bridge the gap between ordinary expenditure at 11¼ crores and ordinary receipts at 11 crores. This problem has been temporarily solved in the budget for 1931-32 by drastic economy. If there is to be a permanent solution, it can only be by reducing the scales of provincial basic expenditure to a point where it will be about 20 lakhs below normal income."

I ask the House to mark these words of the financial expert. Then you have got the very alarming state of affairs indicated at page 3 of the Memorandum. It says in the first paragraph—

> "Circumstances over which we have had no control. . . ."

and I do not agree with this part of the statement—

> "Circumstances over which we have had no control have in three years converted a balance of 128 lakhs into a deficit of 47, a loss of 1¾ crores."

These are very alarming figures. Who is responsible for bringing about this state of affairs in this province? I submit that no amount of ingenuity, no amount of explanation can hide from us this fact that we are on the verge of bankruptcy, and unless the Council and the Government take courage in both hands, there would be a ruinous future for this province. I do not say that this state of affairs cannot be remedied. It can only be remedied if we are prepared to shed our racial and communal considerations aside. Otherwise it will be impossible to meet the present situation.

I will now try to show how we knowingly have been trying to make experiments at the cost of the tax-payer. First of all I intend to criticise the departments of the three Ministers, lest it should be said that I am partial to the Ministers and rather hard on the reserved side. First of all I shall take the great scheme, the Mandi Scheme. I was present in the Council when this Mandi scheme was placed before the House with a flourish of trumpets, and we were told that this Mandi scheme was going to usher in a new era of progress and prosperity to this province. I just want the honourable members, especially the zamindar members, to take into consideration certain facts which I am placing before them, and they will fully realise how by lending support to this white elephant they have got a load of stones tied round the neck of the province from which the province cannot now escape. After very carefully reading all the speeches delivered by my friend who is now in charge of this department and Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni and other gentlemen who took part in that debate and also of those who defended the scheme and also the report of the committee of enquiry which was set up by our Council, I have come to the conclusion that the Mandi scheme can never be a paying concern. I would ask my honourable friend

who is in charge of this department whether he can meet these facts and figures which I am going to place before him. In the first year we were told that this Mandi scheme would cost to the province 2 crores and 76 lakhs of rupees and would yield a dividend of 16 per cent. In 1923 the estimate of this expenditure rose to 3 crores and 28 lakhs and we were promised a dividend of 10 per cent. In 1925, we were told that the scheme would cost 5 crores and 38 lakhs and would yield a dividend of 6 per cent. In 1929, we were told that it would cost 9 crores and would yield a dividend of 5½ per cent.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I think the figures are wrong.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Probably the Honourable Minister is leaving out of account the expenditure on the Kangra Valley Railway. In March 1930, the Enquiry Committee accepted the figure of 6 crores and 25 lakhs excluding the cost of the Kangra Valley Railway as the probable capital cost of the scheme which would yield a dividend of 5½ per cent. From 2 crores and 76 lakhs we have to-day an estimate of about 12 crores of rupees for the scheme and from a dividend of 16 per cent. promised in 1923, we now have come to an estimated dividend of 5½ per cent.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Will the honourable member please allow me to say a few words ?

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I do not want to give way. I may tell you how the 12 crores are made up. I include the cost of the railway.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The cost of the railway does not fall upon the provincial finance.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : That does not matter. That also comes out of the pockets of the tax-payer. You cannot escape the charge that you promised that we shall have to spend 2 crores and 76 lakhs and now the capital amount including the interest comes to more than 12 crores. If the Sardar Sahib wishes me to satisfy him on this point I shall do so when this project comes up for discussion before this Council. This is not the time to go into facts and figures. I am ready to go to his office and give him every possible information that he needs. But I ask him, how in the name of justice and fair play he can explain the fact that when the estimates were made for 2 crores and 76 lakhs, we are now faced with an expenditure of 12 crores, how instead of the promise of a dividend of 16 per cent. we now have got an estimate of a dividend of 5½ per cent, I do not know how the Mandi scheme is going to pay. Then, Sir, the report of the Enquiry Committee, not a white-washing committee, but one trying genuinely to tackle this problem, says that the average cost of serving a bulk-supply customer would be 8.14 pies and in Lahore, the Lahore Electric Supply Company's cost is 4 pies, and this, after all allowances are made. What benefit has been this Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme to the province ? What benefit is going to accrue ? Now, Sir, in all seriousness I would urge upon this House that this scheme should be abandoned. We have spent a certain amount of money, we are prepared to

write it off. If it is not written off to-day, the province will be put to a loss of 12 crores and the whole amount shall have to be written off after 1933. We were told that we shall have the supply in the first stage in 1930, now we are told that it would be 1933, when electric supply will be given to the people. I ask if those people who were responsible for the estimates in the beginning, whether they are still in the service of this department. If they are then this shows that the Government has not been dealing in a fair manner. Those who were responsible for making these estimates which were given to us in the beginning, those gentlemen should have gone, because they do not know their work and they have been on a wild goose chase in providing cheap electric supply to the province at cheap rates by means of this Mandi scheme. They are still there. These are merely the estimates made at the present time, we do not know in a year or two they will come forward and say that not 12, but 20 crores will be needed for this scheme. One argument is put forward and that is that we have spent about 3 to 4 crores and that we cannot afford to give it up at this stage. That is the gambler's spirit. A gambler always says : I have lost 50,000 I must make it up, otherwise I will be a loser ; but in order to make up that 50,000 he loses another 50,000. This is the spirit in which this scheme is being carried out. I will take the earliest opportunity of going thoroughly into this matter when the demand comes before the House and I will ask the zamindar members who were responsible for this scheme—because it was their votes that carried the day, we criticised the scheme from the very beginning—

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : They will get electricity at cheap rates.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : If they convince any reasonable man that the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme will be a success I am prepared to vote for the Government. After reading all the literature that is available I cannot make up my mind that it will ever be successful. I did not take part in previous debates ; I was a silent listener, but when curiosity led me to read this report of the Committee of Enquiry, it opened my eyes as it would open the eyes of all the honourable members if they were to read the report. If they do not read this report, they, I submit, will not be doing their duty by the province. Then, Sir, we come to the Education Department (*A voice* : The Honourable Minister is not here).

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh will take notes for him.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : There is one fact to which I wish to draw the attention of the members. I at least have been a member of this Council for the last 8 years and I have seen that the increase in the expenditure in this department is due to one main fact, the desire on the part of the Ministers to create posts in order to satisfy the communal appetite (*A voice* : Question). Let us take the Department of Agriculture first. It has been responsible for creating post after post without any benefit to the province at large. I went through this solid Budget to see the various posts that are now in the Agricultural Department. (*A voice* : You had better see the Civil List.) I do not know what purpose they serve. Because a certain gentleman belonging to a certain caste or

[Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.]
community is in charge of that department therefore posts must be created. Now, Sir, similar is the case with the Education Department. Post after post is created by various means to satisfy sometimes one community—I do not blame my friend here who is in charge of the department now—and sometimes the other community—

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, when a gentleman attacks a particular department it is up to him to name the post which has been created—

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I have not given way and what right has the Honourable Minister to interrupt me from another honourable member's seat ?

Mr. Deputy President : The honourable member will please proceed.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : In 1924, I am speaking from personal knowledge, Sir Fazl-i-Husain wanted to start a number of colleges in various places. I at that time sounded a note of warning. I said at that time that these colleges were not needed, and that even if they were, the demand for them could be satisfied in some other way. One reason I gave was that the growth of this kind of liberal education without providing the people with opportunities of service to the State would be a grave problem, that the educated unemployed will be a great disturbing factor in the political life of the province.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Close the Lahore College ?

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : That prophesy of mine is coming out true. Then, Sir, with regard to colleges a suggestion was made by Sardar Jodh Singh during the debate in those days that whenever any community felt that it was backward in education, it should set up a college and the Government should give it a grant. That would be a cheaper method of giving educational facilities to communities. But here was desire to create posts and that was the reason why a number of colleges were scattered all over the province and expenditure on education grew without securing to the province the benefits it would have otherwise obtained. Similarly, Sir, there was another favourite method of providing posts, that is what was called the provincialization of schools. I protested; we, Sir, sitting on these benches Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs who formed a sort of good solid opposition protested against the provincialization of schools. We said that we were entering an era of self-Government, and that these another schools should be controlled by local bodies and district boards and Government should give them grants. One by one the schools were taken over from these bodies. Highly paid teachers were put in those institutions and instead of being a source of benefit to the public at large they became a source of great expenditure. Look at the inspecting staff in the Education Department. There is the Director of Public Instruction, under the Director of Public Instruction are 5 roving inspectors drawing very high salaries, but doing what kind of work ? If it is a school of the other community they criticise that, but if it belongs to their

own community they try to whitewash the faults of that school. That is what is going on and has been going on for the last five years. I have seen the reports of the work of these inspectors, district inspectors, and assistant district inspectors. They are doing nothing, but passing criticism. One should have insisted that they should devote themselves to educational propaganda and so on, but the main work of these people is merely one of criticising the schools run by private bodies and other individuals. The result of this is that to-day you have got the problem of a top heavy administration in all departments without giving the same benefit to the people which the people should have derived had there not been red-tapism and the top-heavy administration. We, Sir, as I said, we are responsible, members of the Council are responsible for adopting an attitude of entirely neglecting the broad questions. We have failed to take a very long view of the state of affairs. There was a time when there was a balance of 1 crore and 28 lakhs. We should have reduced taxation, we should have reduced *abiana*, we should have done various other things by which we should have relieved the people at large. But nothing of the kind was done. There was a scramble in all the departments of the Government for services on the basis of communal considerations and the result is that we are to-day faced with this deficit. We are, Sir, every one of us, responsible for bringing this state of things and we cannot blame either the Government or other people. The blame must be ours. It is no use complaining of deficits now. Now, take again one other thing which has come to my mind. Take the Sikh Gurdawara Tribunal. There is that huge tribunal sitting there. I have had an experience of one of the tribunals. One would have sufficed, but there are two. There are three judges, one Hindu, one Sikh and one European. It is the European that decides the case while the Hindu and the Sikh judges are merely acting as assessors (*laughter*). I really fail to understand whether it is not due to our communal outlook that we have sacrificed a large amount of money in order that we may satisfy the unreasonable and unmeaning claims of the different communities. I submit, Sir, that it is possible for us yet, as I said, if we take courage in both hands and shed our communal outlook and give up our racial considerations, to save the Punjab (*Hear, hear*). It is impossible otherwise. You are face to face with this deficit, and you cannot get over it. I have read out a passage from an impartial gentleman who wrote out this memorandum explanatory to the Budget. And now read this Budget once more and you will find, I have noted it, that there is a fall in the income, you see the Stamps, you see the Excise, you see any other department that you like and you will find that income has fallen and is falling and expenditure has gone up and this is bound to be the case with this additional factor of a fall in prices. I challenged the Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh the other day, I want to know if he can reply to some of my criticism or if my Honourable friend the Minister for Local Self-Government can do so, but neither of them replied to the criticism that I levelled against Sardar Sahib. Here is a world situation created. Machinery and scientific inventions are adding to the production of the world driving out thousands of people out of employment. It is impossible for you to say that this production will decrease and that unemployment will cease, no, it is not going to cease and this remarkable phase of the Punjab to-day which Raja Narendra Nath said, he had not seen for the last forty years,

[Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.]

this cheapening of the prices of grain is going to be a permanent factor of our life. It is going to be so if you invent machines and tractors. Production will tend to increase, with that unemployment also will increase. These are some of the very important and very significant factors which we have to face. You have voted for a retrenchment committee, you will have it very soon. There was one other retrenchment committee in 1921 whose report I read carefully. Some of the matters the Government promised to consider, but they are under consideration still. Retrenchment committees always meet with that fate. If the Council can now make up its mind and cut down the expenditure it will have done its duty to the province; otherwise no amount of retrenchment committees will do any good. Some sort of explanation will be given at such committee and their recommendations will be given up. This system has gone on for a number of years and it will go on for some time more. If you make up your minds it is now for you to cut down the expenditure of the province. Unfortunately as I have said all of us are responsible for this state of affairs and all of us can set it right. No amount of whitewashing can hide from us the fact that we are steadily going towards bankruptcy.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan) Urban]: The job of the Finance Secretary is always a thankless task. He has to do more pruning than by way of constructive work. But the task of the Government is a little different. It is the duty of every Government to strive to meet its expenditure and to meet it by a proper measure of taxation. But it is not right for a Government to impose taxation when it can cut down easily its expenditure. We have been told that there will be no increase of taxes for the coming year. We have also been shown by a manipulation of figures that the expenditure has been more than met by the income. In fact it is a deficit Budget. To be optimistic and say that in the future year we hope to realise the same amount as we got in the previous two or three years is wrong calculation in the case of the Punjab, however true that may be in the case of other provinces. With falling prices and knowing full well that the people will not be able to meet their liabilities, to frame a Budget on that presumption is absolutely wrong. As my honourable friend from the rural areas has pointed out, the taxes were paid by the zamindars in this year by pawning or melting their ornaments. Whatever the zamindar had in reserve, laid by, during past years has either gone to the money-lender or to the melting pot. To go into the clutches of the money-lender is the same as falling into the melting pot for we know not only zamindars but big financiers once they had gone to the money-lender were never able to come back with either capital or interest. In the face of this wretched condition of the zamindars to make the calculations made in the budget is wholly unsound.

But the Honourable Finance Member draws a rosy picture. He does not say that things are as bad as they really are. For it is his job to be optimistic. Was there ever a Finance Member who gave way to pessimism? Every Finance Member that I know of has made it his duty to show that the Budget balanced itself. It is our foremost duty to put to him the question what would be the condition next year if people refused to pay taxes—

not on account of any propaganda for that has happily come to an end, the truce has been called and peace has been restored, but from sheer inability to pay. How will the Government be able to squeeze money out of them? If prices have fallen so low, what if they have cotton in plenty or wheat enough to burn? As we know in America in certain parts of the country they are burning wheat instead of coal because the price of wheat is less than that of coal. I have actually seen a photograph of a factory where they used wheat for raising steam in the place of coal. Punjab, in a similar way may have enough wheat to drive out coal but with the disastrous fall in prices where is the money to come from? Ours is not after all a very rich province. The *baniya* may have money in large sums but it is only apparent because much of it is invested already. As my friend Lala Harkishan Lal once said, he is only putting from one pocket to another. It may be that some one owes him a lakh of rupees. That does not mean he has that amount actually with him. He may have a lakh in a running account which he can transfer here or transfer there. The question is really where the money is to come from.

In these circumstances the first and foremost duty of the Finance Member is to reduce taxation. He has not touched the question at all. Although much of taxation is on the reserved side and we cannot touch it this way or that, the Honourable Member must have tried first to reduce expenditure. His first duty it was to have reduced the salary of officers. That he has not done. It is extremely wrong on the part of this House to start axing the Budget here or there because the axe may fall on the wrong person. As members of this Council we have to be very careful and very just. Servants of the Crown are servants of the country as well and a legislature by simply looking at the Budget cannot propose that this salary should be cut down by 10 that by 12 and a third by 15 per cent. The Honourable Finance Member has access to all the circumstances and it was for him—he had a whole year at his disposal for this purpose—to see the possibilities of retrenchment. Cutting down the demand under Education, Medical and Public Health and the like can hardly be called retrenchment. In all countries measures for the amelioration of society are given first and foremost consideration. In England we hear of old age pensions, widows' pensions and free meals provided to students. There are a hundred and one ways in which the State helps the poor and the needy. In this country you have hardly one orphanage maintained by the Government. You find 50 rectangles given to this person, squares given to that gentleman, all for having acted as C. I. D., as informants against the public, for having rendered meritorious services to the State, and what is that meritorious service? Misreporting the politicals. I know how these individuals cling themselves to the Financial Commissioner—I do not mean the Honourable Commissioners sitting in front—or to the Minister or in fact to any one who has the honorific prefix attached to his name, 'Honourable', and indeed to the Commissioner, Deputy or Assistant Commissioner and make it their duty to carry to them all sorts of silly reports. These parasites—for they are none better—must not be allowed to carry on their foolish game of backbiting in the hope of getting a few squares. If you go to the towns, the Deputy Commissioner invariably

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]

has a long list of 2,000 people, applicants for *murabbas* and *chutneys* and much of his time every morning must be taken up in promising them help. If only we have been selling these lands which we have inherited from previous governments, it would have brought us enough money. (*The Financial Commissioner*: Yes, they are being sold.) Yes, they are being sold after much of them has been granted away. The Government have realised their folly rather late. (*The Financial Commissioner*: It has all been sold.) But it is being given too. (*The Financial Commissioner*: No, not a bit of land.) Only last year I found a number of these *murabbas* had been given. (*The Financial Commissioner*: Not given, they have to pay for it.) Yes, they give Rs. 4,000 spread over 40 years. But that is only one of the several items which strike one as capable of being reduced. Take the case of buildings for instance. Our policy in the last few years has been absolutely wrong. We have been building bungalow after bungalow unnecessarily. There are about fifty or sixty of them in the Mayo Gardens for officers. (*An honourable member*: Those are railway buildings.) Very well, I will leave them. I had occasion once to visit the quarters built for the Principal of the Medical School at Amritsar. It was a building estimated at Rs. 40,000. Lavish expenditure! I do not mind money being spent on the construction of quarters for, our officers have to be housed and it would be wrong on our part to insist that no sort of construction ought to be undertaken by Government. But the line has to be drawn somewhere. In the matter of salaries as I have once said it is impossible to cut off salaries straightaway. But if you put your foot on the Public Works Department a lot of wastage could be stopped. Years ago I told my Honourable friend, the Minister, over there with his beaming face happy over the money that is given to him for this department, that the time will come when he will have to cut short the luxurious buildings proposed for construction. No heed was paid to me then. I am, however, glad to note that in this Budget there is not that propensity for such lavish construction. But I know last year three bungalows, one for the Deputy Commissioner, one for the District and Sessions Judge and a third for the Civil Surgeon were proposed to be built at Amritsar. These gentlemen occupy bungalows at present which could with some slight expense be modernised. But to spend Rs. 2 lakhs on the construction of new residences at a time of financial stringency is wrong. I realise the Honourable Minister whom I see taking copious notes has not got it in his hands to sanction or refuse for he has only to carry out the building construction and if the Honourable Finance Member wants 20 bungalows he cannot say, no. But it is open to the Honourable Minister to scrutinise the cost of building by the Public Works Department. It is out of all proportion to the cost under the ordinary contract system resorted to by municipalities, district boards and private people. Wherever you find elaborate plans laid out people say:

Yahan to sarkari bungla ban raha hai.

Whether you spend lavishly or not—of course that is a different matter—when you touch a building its plaster falls down and wherever this is the case, you can be sure it is a *sarkari* building. That is a fact. Even the benches behind my honourable friends opposite will tell them that if they happen to

go sometime out and have the misfortune of seeing plaster of any building falling down, people say: Do not worry, it is a Government building. The other day it was my experience in this very hall to see the plaster of its wall falling down at the very touch. Again, in the case of this department recently a gentleman came to me and said that if only the wrong measure ments made by Sub-Divisional Officers could be stopped a lot of wastage could be saved. There is a lot of room for retrenchment. But when I say this I do not want to be understood as accusing the Public Works Department officers of any deliberate extravagance. Probably the same waste is common to works carried out under private contracts. But it is common knowledge that the two departments, the Irrigation and the Public Works, are responsible for a lot of wastage. Take the Irrigation Department. Irrigation officers are allowed a lot of privileges. The Engineer is allowed something like 300 maunds of fuel free, the Sub-Divisional Officer 200 maunds, the zilladars 60 maunds and so on. If at all they pay for it, they pay a nominal sum. These 300 maunds are never exhausted and if any one in the countryside gets fuel at a very small price, be sure it is through some Engineer or through some Irrigation Department official. A lot of retrenchment could be done in this and in other ways in the Irrigation Department if only the Government started in the right spirit. Simply sending a reminder to a junior officer who is aware that it is a threat and will not be carried out is useless. I hope that the retrenchment committee will make an earnest effort to retrench these things. Otherwise you cannot effect any economies in the expenditure and bring down the total expenditure in the Budget estimates. This is absolutely easy especially as the Civil Disobedience Movement has been abandoned.

Unless you reduce your expenses and consequently the rates and taxes that are now pressing so heavily upon the people you will have very hard times ahead of you. It may not be that you yourself, I mean this Government, will not have to face it, because there will be another Government under a different system; but whoever may be in charge of the affairs of this province will have difficult times to face. Retrenchment in the direction in which I have pointed out is the only way to avoid difficulties in future.

The expenditure on police has been rising year after year. I quite realise that there are special circumstances in the Punjab which necessiate a large expenditure on the police. The Honourable Finance Member says he is going to spend Rs. 5,00,000 more this year. Now that peace is restored in the country, or at least there is every prospect of peace being restored—I hope the Finance Member will not be pessimistic about these things—let him go ahead and cut down the estimates for additional police this year; otherwise much of this money will go to waste. Personally I am not opposed to spending any amount of money on keeping the police force in sufficient strength. But I strongly deprecate the excessive zeal and unnecessary show of power and force by stationing too many policemen and officers at places where they are absolutely unnecessary. For instance what is the use of flooding the streets of Amritsar with unnecessary police officers and making a lot of them sit idle in the lines. I admit there was a time when the Civil Disobedience Movement was going on the policemen were required sometimes to break heads, sometimes to arrest people and sometimes for

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mere show of force and power. But there is no need now and I would advise the Honourable Finance Member not to recruit any more policemen but to try and reduce the number already engaged. He has already said when he came before the Council with a demand for supplementary grant that he would reduce the number as soon as the necessity for it was over.

With regard to punitive police, the Government have a system under which, if they find a particular *ilaqa* to be *budmash* they make a departmental enquiry and quarter additional police at the cost of the inhabitants of the *ilaqa*. The Government take this course without informing the people or consulting them in any way. The District Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Commissioner are not always helpful to the people. When they scent any trouble, whether they have any grounds for it or not, they at once recommend punitive police for the area. In such cases I would suggest that the people of the locality should be given a chance to show why punitive police should not be stationed in their village. My honourable friend Ahmed Yar Khan also had a resolution in his name on this subject. In places where this punitive police is stationed the life of the ordinary people becomes absolutely impossible. No chicken is safe there from the hands of the policemen. All the eggs are eaten and even the geese are not safe. It may be that the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police do not encourage these things, but the ordinary police officers have to live and they cannot afford to pay for the chicken. So by various means they see that most of the chicken in the village find their way into the police pot. Very often the villagers are blackmailed like this in order that they may not come to trouble with the punitive police officers. Often times *budmashes* who are well known to the police officers are appointed as special constables and they behave like this to the knowledge of the police officers.

I do not want it to be understood that I am making any sweeping remark about all the police officers. It is far from my intention. I speak with as much sense of responsibility as the Finance Member or the Home Secretary. But I am only giving some instances,which ought to be put an end to. So I would suggest this in order to avoid all this trouble. If you find that a village is *budmash* you must ask them to show cause why a punitive police should not be stationed in that village. You must also try to find out the persons who are really *budmash*. But if you impose a punitive police without making any enquiry into the matter does it mean that the whole village is *budmash ?* Some opportunity should be given to the people of the village to show that wrong information has been given to Government on account of malice or spite, that really the village is law-abiding and quiet and that no police is necessary at all. The villagers should be given an opportunity to refute the unfounded allegations. At the present time it is very easy for Government to station punitive police in a village, because police is a reserved subject and the people have no voice in the matter. But very shortly it will become a transferred subject under the control of Ministers responsible to the people. Then the people will have great influence with their Ministers and Government will find it difficult to go against the will of the people. It is much better that Government frames rules even now regarding the conditions under which punitive police may be stationed at a

particular place. Otherwise the history of places like Chicago in America will repeat itself here. There will be allegations that Government on account of political motives have stationed punitive police at a particular locality.

There is one other important matter which I want to discuss in the House to-day and that is with regard to the electoral rules for elections to the Legislative Council. My honourable friend said it was in the hands of the Government of India, but as far as I am aware this department is in the hands of the Revenue Member. If I remember right, Nawab Muzaffar Khan said that he was ready to have the rules changed. Sir, it is very important that an impression should not get abroad that one political party is trying to get the better of the political party by the power which it wields in the Government. The Election Rules must provide for such things to become impossible. There have been many cases in Amritsar—I am sure the Deputy Commissioner will bear me out—where complaints have been made, rightly or wrongly it is impossible to say, that polling officers have been siding with one party or the other and marking the votes of illiterate and ignorant people as they pleased, and showing their political bias in their official duties. Complaints have been made that even sums of money had passed between the candidate and the polling officer and so on. It is admitted that the system of voting is a very important thing in any democratic country, as it is on that the stability of the constitution and good government of the country depend to a great extent.

Let me tell you a story which I read in a newspaper. There was a Mayor of a big city in Spain. Spain is a country which is notorious for such electioneering tactics. His opponent wanted that he should not become a candidate for a particular seat in that city. In the meanwhile the Home Member or the Home Secretary or whatever you may call him, wired to the Mayor saying that he was going to visit a particular jail in his town and requested him to inspect the jail with him. Accordingly both the Mayor and the Home Member inspected the jail. But after two hours when the inspection was over only the Home Member came out of the jail but not the Mayor. Unfortunately the Mayor had been locked up in a cell, as it was said by mistake. This was found out after 2 days when the election was over. The poor Mayor had been starving these two days and there was none to succour him. Of course, later on they apologised to him in the Spanish way and probably the jailor was reprimanded, but the poor Mayor lost his election. We also see that in the South American Republics Governments change too often. The Prince of Wales goes to Lima; there is one Government in power. The moment he leaves it another Government comes into power. Such things are common in many democratic countries. This shows that election rules are a very important part of any democratic constitution. When a person loses his election there is generally a hue and cry to the effect that something wrong has been done by somebody, some bribe has been given somewhere, the electoral roll has been tampered with somewhere and so on. In 70 or 80 per cent. of the cases, or for your sake let me say, in 99 per cent. of the cases, it is not true. But for the sake of peace in the country let us have clear rules so that such allegations will become impossible in future. There is also the eternal Hindu-Muslim question. Whether we are going to have separate electorates or joint electorates, we cannot say.

But let us ask a few experts and some members of the Council who have had experience of this election work to frame rules in such a way that such things will become impossible hereafter. Otherwise you will find that election petitions will go on in large numbers. When one party is in power the other party will accuse them of having appointed certain officers who are favourably disposed towards them and who will record the votes of illiterate voters in their favour. Such accusations were made even during the recent Assembly elections. We must deprecate Government officers taking part in elections. In the recent Assembly elections, at which my brother stood as a candidate, my honourable friend knows that the co-operative and agricultural department officers were openly helping his opponent. I did not want to bring this to the notice of Government as this was a personal matter. We must put a stop to such things. The right to vote and the right to get elected are valuable rights in any country. There is no use in Government giving these rights to the people if they can be easily taken away by a few officers. If the polling officer records the votes of illiterate voters as he pleased the right of candidates and electors is seriously jeopardised.

At this stage the Council adjourned till 2 P.M. on Saturday, the 7th March 1931.

411 PLC—600—27-3-31 -SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION of the 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, 7th March 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Dijkot Distribution of Lower Chenab Canal.

***222. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many times the Dijkot Distribution of Lower Chenab Canal was remodelled during the years (*i*) 1909 to 1924; (*ii*) 1924 to 1930;

(*b*) what type of outlets existed during the periods mentioned above;

(*c*) what was the total cost of these remodellings during these periods?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when received.

Land cultivation on the Lower Chenab Canal.

***223. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many squares of land were under cultivation on the Lower Chenab Canal in 1920 and 1930, respectively;

(*b*) what was the discharge in cusecs of the main canal above Sagar in 1920 and 1930;

(*c*) what was the discharge in cusecs at the heads of the Jhang, Rakh and Gogera branches in 1920 and 1930, respectively;

(*d*) what was the total area under cultivation on these branches during 1920 and 1930;

(*e*) how much more land has been allotted on the Gugera Branch since 1920 and what is the increase in the discharge at its head?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The information required is being collected, and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

TAWANS.

***224. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to lay on the table—

(*a*) a statement showing by villages the number and the sums of *tawans* levied on the zamindars on account of *najaiz* irrigation on the Lower Chenab Canal for the last three years ;

(*b*) in how many cases the *tawans* were collected during the crop other than that for which it was levied ;

(*c*) whether the Sub-Divisional Officer investigates all *tawan* cases himself or delegates powers of investigation to his subordinates ;

(*d*) whether he is authorised by law to do so ;

(*e*) if so, under what section of the Act ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) and (*b*). The information is not available, but is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*). The honourable member seems to be under some misapprehension. The Divisional Canal Officer alone can decide the issue in each case under section 35 of the Canal Act. To enable the Divisional Canal Officer to do this, the *najaiz* must be inspected by the Sub-Divisional Officer, or the Deputy Collector.

The rule governing this is to be found in the Revenue Manual Section 1·9.

LYALLPUR DISTRICT BOARD.

***225. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of voters in the Lyallpur district for the District Board of Lyallpur ;

(*b*) the number of elected members on the board ;

(*c*) the average number of votes for an elected seat ;

(*d*) whether, while making the present constituencies, special consideration was given to keep the *zail* boundaries intact ;

(*e*) if the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, how many *zails* are there in the Lyallpur district and how many of them were split up for this purpose ;

(*f*) whether as the result of (*d*) there was a great disparity between the number of voters of different constituencies ;

(*g*) the number of voters in the constituency with the smallest number of votes and the number of voters in the constituency with the largest number of votes ;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the biggest constituency has about four times the number of voters and area of the smallest constituency ;

(i) if so, what action Government intends to take to remove this inequality ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (a) 54,827.

(b) 36.

(c) 1,523.

(d) The *zail* boundaries were in most cases kept intact.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) A statement showing the number of voters in each circle is attached.

(g) The number of voters in the constituency with the smallest number of voters is 791 and the number of voters in the constituency with the largest number of voters is 2,127.

(h) No. The biggest constituency has about three times the number of voters and area of the smallest constituency.

(i) The Kamalia tract of the Montgomery district has been added to the district recently and certain tracts from the Multan and Jhang districts are also expected to be added in the very near future. As soon as these contingencies have occurred the whole question of the constitution of the district board and its electoral circles will be considered afresh and due consideration will be given to the point raised by the honourable member.

List showing the number of voters.

Number and name of circle.	Number of voters.
1. Beranwala and Lodhran Zails	1,909
2. Salarwala Zail	1,501
3. Chak Jhumra Zail	1,362
4. Sarshamir and Narwala Zails	1,806
5. Newan Zail	1,538
6. Lyallpur and Uqbana Zails	1,779
7. Khanuana and Rodukoru Zails	2,018
8. Dijkot Zail	1,774
9. Giddarwala Zail	1,462
10. Thikriwala and Pacca Anna Zails	1,726
11. Nehra and Jaranwala Zails	1,136
12. Pawaliana Zail	995
13. Dangali Zail	1,009
14. Dulchi and Rurala Zails	2,117
15. Naurang and Gojra Zails	1,731
16. Khurrianwala Zail	1,374
17. Badwali and Attarwali Zails	2,127
18. Awagat and North of Jassuana Zails	1,163

[Hon. Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.]

Number and name of circle.	Number of voters.
19. Satiana and South of Jassuana Zails	1,297
20. Bahlak Zail	1,357
21. Tandlianwala Zail	1,140
22. Garh and Hithari Zails	2,058
23. Ambala and Killianwala Zails	2,103
24. Rasiana and Tarkhani Zails	1,654
25. Kanjwani Zail	834
26. Samundri and Khiddarwala Zails	1,800
27. Muridwala Zail	791
28. Khikha Zail	1,270
29. Mungi Zail	1,856
30. Khairwala and Tawan Zails	1,217
31. Khewra and Akalwala Zails	2,119
32. Rajana and Dabanwali Zails	1,500
33. Janiwala and Toba Tek Singh Zails	1,146
34. Yakkar and Gojra Zails	1,083
35. Kallar Shikar and Darsana Zails	1,415
36. Sanari, Balochan and Sandianwala Zails ..	1,660
Total ..	54,827

POULTRY FARMING.

***226. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the post of Poultry Expert to Government, Punjab, was created ;

(*b*) the annual expenditure on the Poultry Farm at Gurdaspur, including the salaries of the staff in detail ;

(*c*) the annual income from it ;

(*d*) how many private persons have received training in poultry farming and how many of them are running private poultry farms with any success ;

(*e*) the addresses of such persons, if possible ;

(*f*) whether that farm is commercially a paying concern ;

(*g*) if the answer to (*f*) is in the negative, how the Government justifies the retention of the farm ;

(*h*) if the answer to (*f*) is in the affirmative, whether Government intends developing such farms elsewhere ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) The 20th December, 1926.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

The expenditure has been high hitherto as the poultry farm was just being started and had to be laid out and equipped. Budget provision for the next year is considerably lower than in the past.

The income, on the other hand, has been small as the eggs available for sale were limited, because they were required for increasing the stock of birds on the farm.

(*d*) Since February 1931, when poultry farming classes for the public were started, some 67 private persons have attended organised courses of instruction. Besides 30 others have attended for casual instruction from time to time. Apart from these, instruction in poultry keeping forms a part of the six months' vernacular course given at the Gurdaspur farm. This course is attended by about 62 men annually.

Some of those who have attended these courses are running their own poultry farms.

(*e*) The addresses are not available.

(*f*) No. It was never intended to be.

(*g*) The farm has been established for experimental purposes and to carry on research on the improvement of the *deshi murgi* by selection, improving the cross breed and to acclamatise the imported birds, and to give instruction in poultry keeping to the public.

(*h*) Does not arise.

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON AND INCOME FROM THE POULTRY FARM, GURDASPUR.

Year.	Expenditure.						Income.
	Pay of officers.	Pay of establishment.	Travelling allowance.	Supplies and services.	Contingencies.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1928-29 ..	4,216	1,878	720	6,087	1,626	14,527	200
1929-30 ..	1,576	5,525	295	6,704	1,880	15,980	833
1930-31 .. (Up to 31st January 1931).	3,360	2,066	617	4,633	1,471	12,147	474

DISTRIBUTARY CALLED "RAJBAH PIRMAHAL."

***227. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a new distributary called 'Rajbah Pirmahal' was constructed a few years ago connecting Bhagat with Magneja Rest House and Pirmahal ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that starting from Bhagat there are densely populated villages on both sides of this Rajbah ;

(*c*) whether there is any bridge crossable by carts within first 34,000 feet ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the absence of a cart bridge within that length causes great trouble and hardship to the inhabitants of the surrounding villages and their school-going children ;

(*e*) how many applications have been received by the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer from the zamindars of the neighbourhood requesting the construction of a cart bridge on the Rajbah ;

(*f*) whether any action has been taken on them ; and, if not, why not ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The Rajbah begins to irrigate at R. D. 66,000 and up to R. D. 34,000, there are two ordinary colony villages close to Pirmahal Distributary, but irrigated from other distributaries.

(*c*) None.

(*d*) Not a great hardship, but probably some inconvenience.

(*e*) One petition was received by the Superintending Engineer in July 1929, and one by Chief Engineer in December 1928, and the same two by the Executive Engineer.

(*f*) Proposal for a cart bridge has been approved by the Superintending Engineer, but the construction of the bridge is being held over due to financial stringency.

SHORTAGE OF WATER AT THE TAILS OF DISTRIBUTARIES.

***228. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is a general complaint in the province of shortage of water at the tails throughout the canal-irrigated areas ; if so, why ;

(*b*) what are the remedies to remove the shortage of water and what action the Government proposes to take in the matter ;

(*c*) what were the gauges of the tails of Nasrana Distributary and Doomra Minor during the three months of October, November and December 1930 ; and what were their permissible gauges ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) There are shortages at the tails of a small proportion of the channels. These are due to variations of regime of the canals which hydraulic engineering is not yet able wholly to control.

(*b*) The remedy is remodelling of channels and adjustment of outlets which is given effect to as quickly as possible consistent with due consideration of all the interests affected.

(*c*) Statements attached.

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTUAL GAUGES OF TAIL NASRANA AND PERMISSIBLE GAUGE.

October 1930.			November 1930.			December 1930.		
Date.	Gauge.	Permissible. Gauge.	Date.	Gauge.	Permissible Gauge.	Date.	Gauge.	Permissible Gauge.
1st	.60	.90	16th	.0	.90	1st	.40	.90
2nd	.60	.90	17th	Dry	.90	2nd	.25	.90
3rd	.50	.90	18th	.60	.90	3rd to 5th canal closure.		
4th	.50	.90	19th	.60	.90	6th	.85	.90
5th	.50	.90	20th	.70	.90	7th	.60	.90
6th	.40	.90	21st	.50	.90	8th	.50	.90
7th	.35	.90	22nd	.75	.90	9th	.45	.90
8th	.70	.90	23rd	.50	.90	10th	.55	.90
9th	.35	.90	24th	Dry	.90	11th	.70	.90
10th	.60	.90	25th	.85	.90	12th	.65	.90
11th	.35	.90	26th	.60	.90	13th	.65	.90
12th	.30	.90	27th	.60	.90	14th	.70	.90
13th	.27	.90	28th	.60	.90	15th	.50	.90
14th	.25	.90	29th	.55	.90	16th	.55	.90
15th	.20	.90	30th	.90	.90	17th	.20	.90
16th	.20	.90				18th to 25th canal closure.		
17th	.18	.90				26th	.45	.90
18th	.20	.90				27th	.25	.90
19th	.20	.90				28th	.55	.90
20th	.20	.90				29th	.35	.90
21st	.15	.90				30th	.55	.90
22nd	.15	.90				31st	.65	.90
23rd	.15	.90						
24th	.15	.90						
25th	.15	.90						
26th	.18	.90						
27th	.25	.90						
28th	.45	.90						
29th	.45	.90						
30th	.40	90						
31st October to 15th November 1930, canal closure.								

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTUAL GAUGES OF TAIL DOOMRA MINOR AND PERMISSIBLE GAUGE.

October 1930.			November 1930.			December 1930.		
Date.	Gauge.	Permissible Gauge.	Date.	Gauge.	Permissible Gauge.	Date.	Gauge.	Permissible Gauge.
1st	.65	.90	15th	.60	.90	1st	.50	.90
2nd	.83	.90	16th	.50	.90	2nd to 5th canal closure.		
3rd	.90	.90	17th	.75	.90	6th	.90	.90
4th	.60	.90	18th	.80	.90	7th	.90	.90
5th	.65	.90	19th	.75	.90	8th	.70	.90
6th	.60	.90	20th	.90	.90	9th	.90	.90
7th	.55	.90	21st	.75	.90	10th Canal closure.		
8th	.55	.90	22nd	1.00	.90	11th	.90	.90
9th Canal closure.		.90	23rd	.50	.90	12th	.91	.90
10th	.55	.90	24th	.5	.90	13th	.70	.90
11th	.55	.90	25th	.75	.90	14th	.70	.90
12th	.55	.90	26th Canal closure.	..	.90	15th	.70	.90
13th	.55	.90	27th	.75	.90	16th	.70	.90
14th	.50	.90	28th	.95	.90	17th and 18th canal closure.		
15th	.35	.90	29th	.50	.90	19th	1.1	.90
16th	.30	.90	30th	.50	.90	20th to 25th canal closure.		
17th to 26th canal closure.						26th	.50	.90
27th	.20	.90				27th	.45	.90
28th	.60	.90				28th	.45	90
29th	.62	.90				29th	.45	.90
30th October to 14th November 1930 canal closure.						30th	.45	.90
						31st	.50	.90

REMISSIONS.

***229. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any other rules besides those contained in the Revenue Manual, third edition, for awarding remission to failed crops on canal-irrigated areas ;

(*b*) what are the standard estimates of 'costs of cultivation and seed' which form the basis of rules for remission referred to in (*a*) for the main crops ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the officers in charge find it difficult to interpret the rules as they now exist ;

(*d*) if so, what action Government intend to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The proper rules are contained in rule 20 of the rules under Act VIII of 1873. The Canal Revenue Manual merely explains the procedure to be adopted under this rule.

(*b*) No estimates have up to the present been standardised.

(*c*) It has been reported that some officers find it difficult to interpret the existing rule.

(*d*) The matter is at present under the consideration of Government.

Remissions.

***230. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the average yield fixed by the settlement officers for an acre of *desi* cotton in the Lyallpur district ;

(*b*) what was the average price per maund during the last *kharif* ;

(*c*) what is the total income from an acre of *desi* cotton ;

(*d*) what is the total of Government dues for an acre of cotton (land revenue, water-rate and cesses) that a zamindar has to pay ;

(*e*) what is the total cost of cultivation and seed fixed by the Agricultural Department for an acre of *desi* cotton ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that under rule 20 of the rules under the Canal Act, no remission is admissible if the cultivator recovers nothing beyond the seed and the bare cost of cultivation ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that every acre of *desi* cotton at the prevailing rates yields less than bare cost of cultivation and seed to zamindars ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The Settlement Officer does not fix any rate ; he assumed an outturn of from five to six maunds per acre for the purpose of calculating net assets ;

(*b*) The prices of *desi* cotton in the Lyallpur market varied between Rs. 4-5-0 to Rs. 5-10-0 per maund ;

(*c*) No definite answer can be given, as the return must vary with the outturn ;

(*d*) The land revenue varies from Re. 1-8-0 to six rupees according to the quality of the land ; the water rate on cotton is Rs. 6-4-0 per acre

(*e*) The Agricultural Department does not fix either the costs of cultivation or the seed ;

(*f*) No ;

(*g*) No.

Mian Nurullah : If the Agricultural Department does not fix who fixes the cost of cultivation ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The zamindars themselves.

Mian Nurullah : The cost of cultivation while giving the remission or assessing the land revenue ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : That naturally depends upon the circumstances of each case.

CUTS IN THE CANALS.

***231. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the number of cuts in the canals is on the increase ;

(*b*) how many cuts occurred on the Lower Chenab Canal and its distributaries during the eight years before 1922, and during the eight years after 1922 ;

(*c*) what are the reasons of the increase ;

(*d*) what action the Government proposes to take ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Figures are not available for the whole canal, but those for the East Circle given below indicate that this is so :—

(*b*) For the East Circle—

During 8 years prior to 1922	113
During 8 years subsequent to 1922	198

For the West Circle—

During 8 years prior to 1922	127
During 8 years subsequent to 1922	450

(*c*) No reasons can be definitely assigned for the increase. Possibly the withdrawal of magisterial powers from Canal Officers by rendering the punishment of the offenders less certain and rapid has assisted.

(*d*) Government proposes to continue its present policy of prosecuting offenders when detected.

Mian Nurullah : Will not the Government consider the question of the restoration of magisterial powers of the Canal Department ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I had the benefit of getting the views of the Standing Canal Committee, and I may inform the honourable member that the Canal Committee is opposed to the restoration of those powers.

ARREARS OF GOVERNMENT DUES.

***232. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount of Government dues (land revenue, *abiana* and cesses) that remained unrealised for *rabi* 1930, for the whole province collectively and for each district separately ;

(*b*) whether there were any arrears for the five years before *rabi* 1930 ;

(*c*) if so, how much ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : A statement containing the required information so far as available is laid on the table.

It is regretted, however, that information for Gurdaspur is incomplete, and no figures are as yet available for Dera Ghazi Khan. Complete information for those districts will be supplied to the honourable member when received :—

District.	Total amount of Government dues (land revenue, *abiana* and cesses) unrealized for *rabi* 1930.	Whether there were any arrears for five years preceding *rabi* 1930.	Arrears (suspended revenue) for the five years preceding *rabi* 1930.
	Rs.		Rs.
Hissar	10,570	Yes.	6,71,966
Rohtak	1,474	Yes	2,295
Gurgaon	4,83,549	Yes	14,72,124
Karnal	10,747	Yes	8,138
Ambala	3,532	Yes	4,122
Simla	Nil	No	Nil
Kangra	128	No	Nil
Hoshiarpur	348	No	Nil
Jullundur	Nil	No	Nil
Ludhiana	2,369	Yes	4,702
Ferozepore	5,748	No	Nil
Lahore	17,062	Yes	53,644
Amritsar	5,528	No	Nil
Gurdaspur	1,539	Yes	Not yet received.
Sialkot	Nil	Yes	47,546
Gujranwala	1,504	No	Nil
Sheikhupura..	819	Yes	13,328
Gujrat	Nil	No	Nil
Shahpur	58,509	Yes	18,849

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District.	Total amount of Government dues (land revenue, *abiana* and cesses) unrealized for *rabi* 1930.	Whether there were any arrears for five years preceding *rabi* 1930.	Arrears (suspended revenue) for the five years preceding *rabi* 1930.
	Rs.		Rs.
Jhelum	34	No	Nil
Rawalpindi	Nil	No	Nil
Attock	4,142	No	Nil
Mianwali	5,005	No	Nil
Montgomery	40,000	Yes	12,000
Lyallpur	Nil	No	Nil
Jhang	22,594	Yes	643
Multan	8,407	Yes	1,617
Muzaffargarh	27,257	Yes	3,070
Dera Ghazi Khan	..	..	..
Total ..	7,10,865	..	23,14,044

REMISSIONS.

***233. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what was the total remission granted for *kharif* 1930, in each district ;

(*b*) how many districts were affected and how many remained unaffected ;

(*c*) what is the percentage of acres covered by the remission as compared to the total number of acres under cultivation ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : A statement containing the information asked for in parts (*a*) and (*c*) of the question is laid on the table.

(*b*) Nineteen districts were affected and ten unaffected.

STATEMENT.

District.	Total remission granted.	Percentage of acreage covered by remission of total cultivated area.
	Rs.	
Hissar	Nil	Nil.
Rohtak	21,529	61.97
Gurgaon	24,095	53.54
Karnal	17,340	2.31
Ambala	Nil	..
Simla	Nil	..
Kangra	Nil	..
Hoshiarpur	Nil	..
Jullundur	Nil	..
Ludhiana	3,059	1.15
Ferozepore	13,628	2.49
Lahore	8,638	9.58
Amritsar	54,457	24.74
Gurdaspur	4,980	5
Sialkot	11,799	1.76
Gujranwala	3,00,684	48
Sheikhupura	3,61,562	65
Gujrat	2,08,825	34.6
Shahpur	3,60,466	..
Jhelum	Nil	..
Rawalpindi	569	.44
Attock	1,522	.15
Mianwali	Nil	..
Montgomery	4,50,000	10.00
Lyallpur	9,42,201	15.50
Jhang	1,22,815	10.33
Multan	2,99,710	33.37
Muzaffargarh	Nil	..
Dera Ghazi Khan	Nil	..
GRAND TOTAL ..	32,08,879	..

INDEBTEDNESS OF ZAMINDARS.

***234. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the grave indebtedness of the zamindars of the province has ever engaged the attention of Government ;

(*b*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the proposals about the economic conditions of zamindars of Palestine made in the report of Mr. C. F. Strickland, former Registrar of Co-operative Societies, now on deputation to Palestine ;

(*c*) whether the Government is prepared to consider and apply similar proposals for the benefit of the zamindars of this province also ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) I understand the report is under the consideration of the Financial Commissioner, Development.

(*c*) Government is awaiting the result of the consideration of the Financial Commissioner, Development.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE AND *TAQAVI*.

***235. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the value of gross land produce of the Punjab according to the Banking Inquiry Committee Report was 140 crores in 1928, and that it was about 99 crores in 1929 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that zamindars of the province suffered a further loss of 57 crores or so during 1930 ;

(*c*) whether the net produce was approximately 42 crores only in 1930 ;

(*d*) the total cost of cultivation and seed during 1930 ;

(*e*) the estimated margin on which they were to subsist for the whole year of 1930 ;

(*f*) whether in view of the phenomenal decrease in income of zamindars, Government is prepared to give them substantial relief by way of remission of land revenue and *taqavi* ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No. This is not the figure given in statement No. 26 appended to the report.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government is unable to accept these, or indeed, any figures, so uncertain are the many factors underlying such calculations.

(*d*) and (*e*) Government is unable to give any figures for the same reasons.

(*f*) Government will give such relief from time to time as the circumstances demand and as regards the year 1930, have already given very substantial relief.

***236.** *Cancelled.*

***237.** *Cancelled.*

FLOODS IN KOTLA.

***238. Thakur Pancham Chand :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that Kotla town in tahsil Kangra, district Kangra, witnessed disastrous floods in the year 1914 by Dehri stream (*khad*) ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the District Board, Kangra, constructed a dam to safeguard the town in 1915 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the said dam was almost swept away by the heavy floods of 1925 and totally washed away in 1928 ;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) above is in the affirmative, what steps the Government intends to take in order to safeguard the town against future similar floods ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; but half of the cost of it was met by Government.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Government have instructed the Commissioner of Jullundur division that the matter should be considered by the District Board with a view to the execution of the work by it. The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 2,500, to this the District Board has asked the residents of Kotla town to contribute Rs. 1,000. On receipt of their reply the matter will be laid before the Board again for decision as to whether the balance, Rs. 1,500 should be paid by it.

Thakur Pancham Chand : Is Government ready to pay half the cost now ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I am afraid the honourable member cannot expect me to commit Government by asking a supplementary question.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES, AMBALA DIVISION.

***239. Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that since the appointment of the present Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies, Ambala division, almost all the officers of the Co-operative Department consolidating the fragments of land are posted and working in non-Muslim villages ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the Muslim Credit Societies are being closed down or are placed under class D and other serious obstacles are being placed in the way of their getting themselves registered ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES, AMBALA DIVISION.

***240. Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government has received any complaints against the highly communalistic tendencies in the working of and recruitment to the Co-operative Department in the Ambala division under the present Assistant Registrar posted in that division ;

(*b*) if so, whether Government intend to institute an enquiry into the matter ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) No. (*b*) Does not arise.

MAZDA RESTAURANT, MCLEOD ROAD, LAHORE.

***241. Mr. Mukand Lal. Puri :** With reference to starred question[1] No. 2980 asked on the 22nd July 1930 relating to the location of Mazda restaurant on the McLeod Road and the reply of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture thereto, will the Honourable Minister reconsider the question of continuance of licence on expiry of the term of the present licence as stated by him in his reply above referred to ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I have inspected the site as I promised, but unfortunately I have not been able to find a more suitable site which would be less open to objection than the present one.

BEER SHOP, HIRAMANDI, LAHORE.

***242. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** With reference to starred question No. 2981[2] asked on the 22nd July 1930 relating to the beer shop in Hiramandi and the reply of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state if he has received any representation from the residents of the locality objecting to the continuance of the beer shop in that locality and whether in view of the representation made to him in this matter, he will be pleased to reconsider this matter ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Yes. I am sure, the honourable member will agree with me in considering a beer shop a lesser evil than an addition of a new liquor shop.

LIQUOR SHOP NEAR RAILWAY STATION, LAHORE.

***243. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Dadabhoy's liquor shop near the Railway Station, Lahore, is located in a very prominent locality ;

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[1]Vol. XVI, pages 11—12.

[2]Vol. XVI, pages 12-13.

(b) whether it is not against the Excise Rules;

(c) whether in view of this fact and other circumstances brought to the notice of the Government and the Honourable Minister in the deputation of the Punjab Temperance Society, Lahore, which waited upon the Honourable Minister on the 10th January 1931, he intends to remove the shop to a less conspicuous place?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: (a) Yes

(b) No.

(c) Certainly, if the honourable member could suggest a more suitable place.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri: May I suggest it now or shall I send my suggestion to the Honourable Minister later on?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: Send it please.

LOCAL OPTION ACT.

***244. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware that in July 1930 the Lahore Municipal Committee passed a resolution regarding the Local Option Act; and

(b) when the Government proposes to give effect to that resolution?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Not at present.

Within the two years preceding the passing of the resolution, illicit distillation and the smuggling of alcohol has been carried on by the residents of Lahore Municipality. The Collector has, therefore, under section 6 of the Local Option Act refused to be bound by the resolution, and the Commissioner has agreed with him.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri: Is it not practically nullifying the Local Option Act?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: No, it is under the Local Option Act that action was taken.

OPENING OF NEW BEER SHOPS IN LAHORE.

***245. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has announced the opening of two new beer shops, one outside Bhati Gate and the other in Garhi Shahu;

(b) whether the Honourable Minister approves of this;

(c) whether there is any reason for opening these new shops; and if so, what?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) On general grounds of temperance, beer with its small alcoholic content, and valuable nutritive and digestive qualities, as a substitute for country spirit has much to commend itself.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of the question, will the Honourable Minister please state whether he has ordered the opening of two new beer shops in place of two country liquor shops which he is taking steps to close down ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I should like to have notice of this question.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : I suppose these two beer shops are not new in the sense that they have been newly constructed.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I require notice of this question also.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Have not two shops been sanctioned, one outside Bhati Gate and the other in Garhi Shahu ? What does the Honourable Minister mean by saying that they are not new ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I require notice of this question.

SALE OF BEER IN SEALED BOTTLES.

***246. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the sale of beer is allowed in sealed bottles only under the orders issued by Mr. C. M. King, the late Financial Commissioner ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the present Financial Commissioner proposed to allow the sale of beer on premises in smaller quantities for consumption on the spot ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware of the strong feeling which exists against this proposed innovation ;

(*d*) whether the Honourable Minister approves of this ; and if so, what are the reasons for this innovation ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes. The object in view is the substitution of beer, with its small alcoholic content, for country spirit in the interests of temperance.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : May I know why he proposes to allow the consumption of beer in the premises instead of sale in sealed bottles ? Is this additional facility calculated in the opinion of the Honourable Minister to advance the cause of temperance ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I do not think I can give any further information than what I have already given.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : The Honourable Minister admits that in contravention of the order of Mr. King who had prohibited the sale of beer except in sealed bottles in beer shops, the present officers have permitted its sale for consumption in the premises of the shop. I want to know whether in the opinion of the Honourable Minister this additional facility is intended to lead to temperance.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : It is really asking for an expression of opinion.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Yes, I should like to know his opinion.

Mr. President : No honourable member can seek opinions either by questions or by supplementary questions.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : I am asking for the policy of the Honourable Minister.

Mr. President : Questions cannot be asked for an expression of opinion on matters of policy.

PUNITIVE POLICE, ROHTAK MANDI.

***247. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that since October 1930 punitive police has been posted in Rohtak Mandi ;

(*b*) the reasons that led the Government to take this action ;

(*c*) whether any acts of violence were committed in Rohtak Mandi ;

(*d*) whether it was due to the civil disobedience movement ; if so, why Rohtak Mandi was specially selected for it ;

(*e*) whether the Government is aware that Muhammadans as a class living in Rohtak Mandi have been exempted from the payment of the punitive tax ;

(*f*) whether the Government is aware that the imposition of this tax has been felt very much by the petty shopkeepers and they are leaving the Rohtak Mandi on this account ;

(*g*) since how long the civil disobedience movement has stopped in Rohtak town ;

(*h*) whether the Government is still keeping the punitive police there ;

(*i*) whether the Government intends to remove the punitive police from Rohtak Mandi now ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Because of the misconduct of the inhabitants in actively promoting an unlawful movement.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes ; Rohtak Mandi was the centre of all agitation connected with the civil disobedience movement in the district and financed unlawful activities which led to a large number of arrests. A number of police had to be present there practically every day to keep peace and order.

(*e*) Yes.

[Hon. Sir Henry Craik.]

(*f*) No.

(*g*) It would still be premature to say that it had ceased.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) The police post has been sanctioned up to the 4th of July 1931. Its removal on or before that date depends on the conduct of the inhabitants of the Mandi.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : In view of the recent announcement in the papers, will the Honourable Finance Member be prepared to consider its removal before the 4th July 1931?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes.

ELECTED AND NOMINATED MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

***248. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of elected and nominated members of district boards in the Punjab and how many of them are Hindus;

(*b*) the number to which Hindus are entitled under the rules in these district boards?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) The total number of elected and nominated (non-official) members of district boards in the Punjab is 1,028. Out of this number, 270 are Hindus and others (*i.e.*, others who are neither Sikhs nor Muslims).

(*b*) There are no rules on the point. But the formula followed by Government is that representation should be based on the mean between the population and voting strength of a community. According to this formula, the number of Hindus and others (elected and nominated non-official members) should be 327.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to take steps to remove the disparity between the number of Hindu members on the district boards and the number that ought to be in accordance with the formula which he has just quoted?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I shall look into the matter.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, PIND DADAN KHAN.

***249. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of nominated members in the Municipal Committee of Pind Dadan Khan;

(*b*) whether he is aware that there is no non-Muslim member nominated on the committee;

(*c*) whether he is aware that in the past the three nominated seats were equally distributed among Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs;

(*d*) if so, the reasons for departure from that practice?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Three.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) In 1919 and 1922 one nominated seat out of two was given to a Muslim. Since 1924 there have been 3 nominated members. In that year 1 Muslim, 1 Hindu and 1 official, Malik Allah Bakhsh Khan (Sub-Divisional Officer) were nominated. In 1927 nominated members were 1 Hindu, 1 Muhammadan and 1 Sikh.

(*d*) There being no such practice as is referred to in part (*c*) of the question, part (*d*) does not arise. The Sikhs having only 85 voters out of 1,420 and a population of only 235 out of 9,919 were not considered entitled to a nominated seat under a strict application of the formula.

SUB-REGISTRARS.

***250. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state the total number of Sub-Registrars in the province and how many of them are Hindus?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : There are 68 posts of Departmental and Honorary Sub-Registrars, of which three are vacant, and 13 are held by Hindus.

SCHOLASRHIPS FOR DEPRESSED CLASSES.

***251. Mr. Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a circular was issued by the Education Department stating that four scholarships will be given each year to students of depressed classes at the college stage ;

(*b*) whether all these scholarships have been awarded to such students ;

(*c*) if not, why not ;

(*d*) whether he is aware that a depressed class sweeper boy, Yashwant Rai, reading in the first year class of the D. M. College, Moga, applied for one of these scholarships, first through the Principal, D. A.-V. College, Lahore, and again through the Principal, D. M. College, Moga ;

(*e*) whether he has been granted a scholarship ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, the scholarship has now been awarded.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) A scholarship has been awarded.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DEPRESSED CLASSES IN NORMAL SCHOOLS.

***252. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a circular was issued stating that depressed class boys will be given an additional scholarship of Rs. 5 per month in normal schools ;

[Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri.]

(b) whether any such boys applied for the additional scholarships;

(c) if so, whether they have been given additional scholarships; if not, why not?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (a) Additional stipends and not scholarships are available.

(b) Yes.

(c) Additional stipends have been awarded to those entitled to them.

AMBALA CANTONMENT BOARD.

***253. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(a) the total population of Hindus and Muslims in the Ambala Cantonment;

(b) the number of elected members of the Cantonment Board;

(c) the number of elected Muslim members on the said board;

(d) whether the Government has received a representation from the Muslims of Ambala Cantonment asking that new elections to the Cantonment Board may be held as soon as possible;

(e) whether the new rules for the elections of the Cantonment Board have been finally published;

(f) whether the election has been postponed to July or August 1931, and, if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Hindus 27,774, Muhammadans 14,848.

(b) 7.

(c) None.

(d) Yes.

(e) The rules for the election of the Cantonment Board were published under Punjab Government notification No. 7536-S./H., dated 13th September 1930, as amended by notification No. 31307, dated the 28th October 1930, and under Punjab Government notification No. 1599, dated 15th January 1931. The former two notifications are being modified by another notification now under issue.

(f) The elections were postponed under the above-mentioned notifications to such date between the 10th July and 10th August as the Cantonment Authority of Ambala should see fit to appoint, the reason being the necessity for allowing time for the preparation of electoral rolls.

DISTRICT JUDGE, HOSHIARPUR.

***254. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of visits made by the District and Sessions Judge, Hoshiarpur, to Kangra and Kulu from January 1929 to January 1931, and the dates on which these visits were made;

(*b*) what staff he took with him on these tours;

(*c*) how much money had to be spent on his own travelling allowance and that of the staff for these tours;

(*d*) whether it was absolutely necessary in the public interest to perform all these tours?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

POLICE ACTION IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

***255. Thakur Pancham Chand :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that in the Kangra district a number of men have been put on Register No. 10 by the police for wearing Gandhi caps and for having political tendencies;

(*b*) if the answer to question (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action the Government intends to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Government has ascertained that a few persons have been placed under police surveillance in consequence of their persistence in spreading agitation which is subversive of the law.

(*b*) These cases are under examination.

CRIMES IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

***256. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state in respect of 1929 and 1930, separately, for the district of Rohtak the number of persons—

(*a*) who were proceeded against under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code,

(*b*) who were placed under police surveillance;

(*c*) in respect of whom history sheets were started?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :—

	1929.	*1930.*
(*a*) Number of persons proceeded against under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code	26	24
(*b*) Number of persons placed under police surveillance	706	741
(*c*) Number of persons in respect of whom history sheets were started ..	98	45

HABITUAL OFFENDERS IN THE PROVINCE.

***257. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the average number of persons proceeded against annually in the province under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, the average being calculated on the figures of five years ending on the 31st December 1927?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : 2,535.

PROSECUTING INSPECTORS AND SUB-INSPECTORS.

***258. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Prosecuting Inspectors and Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors recruited directly so far from among LL.B.'s of the Punjab ;

(*b*) the number of (*i*) Hindus and (*ii*) Hindu statutory agriculturists among the persons referred to in (*a*) ;

(*c*) the number of men from the Ambala division among the persons referred to in (*a*) ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No direct appointments are made in the rank of Prosecuting Inspectors of Police. The number of Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors recruited direct so far from among LL.B's of the Punjab is 65.

(*b*) Out of the 65 directly recruited Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors 36 are Hindus and 6 Hindu statutory agriculturists.

(*c*) Seven.

WHEAT EXPORTS.

***259. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the amount of wheat exported from the Punjab in 1925 and the amount exported in 1930 ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Government regret that they have no information.

CHOWKIDARS AND POPULATION OF VILLAGES.

***260. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the scale of population which regulates the number of chowkidars appointed for each village or group of villages ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The rules allow a certain latitude, but as a general rule one chowkidar is considered sufficient for every fifty to a hundred houses.

TOBA TEK SINGH TAHSIL.

***261. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total revenue of Toba Tek Singh tahsil of the Lyallpur district from all sources ;

(*b*) what other tahsils of this province pay as much or more revenue to the Government ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Rs. 41,57,278.

(*b*) The following tahsils in the Punjab pay approximately the *same* or *more* revenue to Government :—

				Rs.
(1) Pakpattan	..	..	..	40,39,910
(2) Jaranwala	..	..	..	41,91,844
(3) Lyallpur	..	..	..	45,54,284
(4) Montgomery	..	..	..	45,60,155

ROADS IN TOBA TEK SINGH TAHSIL.

***262. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many miles of pucca roads are there in the Toba Tek Singh tahsil ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that all the roads starting from Toba Tek Singh to Kamalia, Shorkot, Jhang and Gojra are katcha roads ;

(*c*) which of these belong to the Public Works Department ;

(*d*) whether the Government intend turning any of these roads into metalled roads ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) 14·28 miles.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Except Toba Tek Singh to Jhang all these roads belong to Public Works Department.

(*d*) Yes, as soon as Council can vote funds.

Mian Nurullah : Have any proposals been brought before this Council in connection with the roads in Toba Tek Singh ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : No. But they are brought in the general course of road re-classification scheme.

MUHAMMADAN ENGINEERS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

***263. Khan Haibat Khan Daha :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(1) the total number of the members of the Imperial Service and that of the Provincial Service of Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch ;

(2) whether it is a fact that there are two Muhammadan Assistant Engineers in the whole cadre of the Provincial Service and none in the cadre of the Imperial Service of the said department ;

(3) whether Government is aware that qualified Muhammadans are available both for the Imperial and Provincial Service ;

(4) whether the Government will explain the reasons for the shortage of Muhammadan Engineers in the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, and how it intends to make up the deficiency ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh :

(1) *Permanent posts*—

(*a*) Sanctioned cadre	..	32	I.S.E.
Existing strength	..	28	
(*b*) Sanctioned cadre	..	24	P.S.E.
Existing strength	..	23	

Temporary posts—

(*c*) Executive Engineer	1
(*d*) Assistant Engineers	8

(2) Yes.

(3) I am not aware of it.

(4) (*i*) Recruitment to both Indian Service of Engineers and Punjab Service of Engineers ceased ten years ago. A new service known as the "Punjab Service of Engineers" was formed from 1st July 1930 which has replaced both the above services, but no recruitment has been made to it as yet.

(*ii*) Recruitment to the old Indian Service of Engineers was made by the Government of India and Secretary of State for India, and the Local Government is not in a position to say exactly why Muhammadans were not appointed but presumably because the candidates from that community coming up for selection were not sufficiently well qualified.

(*iii*) Recruitment to the old Punjab Service of Engineers was made by Local Government by promotion from among Upper Subordinates and temporary Engineers serving in the department, and by the Government of India from students who secured guaranteed appointments at Roorkee College.

(*iv*) So far as the appointments made by the Local Government are concerned appointments were made by strict selection and not by communities.

(*v*) The claims of Muslim candidates will be considered when making appointments to the new Punjab Service of Engineers.

FLOOD DAMAGES AT MIANWALI.

***264. Khan Haibat Khan Daha :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that large tracts of land on either side of the River Sind passing through Mianwali district have been devastated on account of recent floods in that river;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that these floods have added enormously to the already poverty-stricken cultivators of Mianwali district ;

(*c*) whether Government intends to compensate these people for the loss sustained by them by giving them lands in the colony area ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) On all rivers there is alluvion and diluvion. Villages both lose and gain by river action. If there is a loss on one bank there is usually a gain in accretion on

the other : after a cycle of years there is usually a swing back. Villages that have gained culturable area begin to lose it and villages that have lost culturable area begin to receive accretions.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR MIANWALI.

***265. Khan Haibat Khan Daha :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mianwali district is considered to be one of the most backward districts in the province so far as education is concerned ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that there is no Intermediate College there as well as in the neighbouring districts of Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan ;

(*c*) if so, what action Government intend to take in the matter of providing facilities for higher education in the district ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes, to some extent.

(*b*) Yes, but there are such colleges at Shahpur and Campbellpur.

(*c*) The financial situation precludes the opening of such colleges in the near future.

"KHARABA MUAFI" ON LOWER BARI DOAB COLONY.

***266. Khan Haibat Khan Daha :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that half "Kharaba Muafi" of the crops has been totally stopped on the Lower Bari Doab Colony ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that owing to the above reason the percentage of "Kharaba Muafi" on Lower Bari Doab colony is lower than it was in previous years ;

(*c*) if the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, whether the Government intends to restore the old "Kharaba" rules regarding half "Kharaba Muafi" on the said colony ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

KAMALIA EXTENSION CANAL.

***267. Khan Haibat Khan Daha :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Kamalia Extension Canal closes down on the 15th October each year ;

(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to extend the period up to 31st of October instead of 15th of October ; if so, from what year ;

[Khan Haibat Khan Daha.]

(c) whether it is also a fact that the zamindars of the Kamalia Burala extension canal have made a representation to the Government for making it a perennial canal; if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. Government is not prepared, in the face of strong opinion to the contrary on the rest of the Lower Chenab Colony, to meet their wishes.

BHAKRA DAM.

***268. Khan Haibat Khan Daha :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the two Superintending Engineers of the Punjab Government and of the Bombay Government appointed to enquire into the effect of the Bhakra Dam withdrawals of water from the river Sutlej upon the water surface levels of the river Indus at the heads of the Sind Inundation Canals have submitted their report; if so, whether the Government will place a copy of the report on the table of the House;

(b) when is the work of rectangulation survey of the tract to be irrigated by the Bhakra Dam Project to be completed;

(c) whether it is a fact that the work of preparation of the project for submission to the Government of India and the Secretary of State for sanction has not been taken in hand up to this time despite a resolution passed by the Council to this effect;

(d) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, when the Government is going to take in hand the work of the preparation of this project for submission to the Government of India and the Secretary of State?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) The reply to this has been given in answer to Council question[1] No. (starred) 112.

(b), (c) and (d) The reply to these items will be found in answer to starred Council question[2] No. 113 (a), (b) and (c).

WATER ON THE LOWER CHENAB CANAL.

***269. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any contract between the Secretary of State and the early colonists of the Lower Chenab Canal regarding the conditions on which canal water was to be supplied;

(b) If so, whether the Government will lay a copy of the contract on the table?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

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[1] Page 223 *ante*.
[2] Pages 223-224 *ante*.

Mian Nurullah : Does it mean that the Government is under no obligation to supply water when it gives lands to grantees or to the purchasers of land ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : But that is not the question of the honourable member. As I understood it he merely asked whether there is a contract between the Secretary of State and the purchasers.

Mian Nurullah : Does it mean that there is no contract at all ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : There is none.

Mian Nurullah : Then obligations come under contracts.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The supply of water is based on the capacity of the canal and the percentage of the culturable commanded area which it has to irrigate according to the provision made in the project when it is prepared.

WATER ON THE LOWER CHENAB CANAL.

***270. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that every bit of land that was granted or sold to the colonists of the Lower Chenab Canal carried with it a certain quantity of water ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in the beginning the Government was to supply water to enable every colonist to irrigate 75 per cent. of his land ;

(*c*) whether this has been reduced to 64 per cent. now ;

(*d*) from what date was this change effected and under what law ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) If the implication here is that individual colonists were guaranteed water to irrigate 75 per cent. of their lands, the answer is in the negative.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mian Nurullah : Does it mean that there is no obligation even to the extent of irrigating 75 per cent. of the land ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No, only a certain proportion of the area can be irrigated, and therefore there is no obligation for providing water for the whole of the area sold.

AMALGAMATION OF THE POST OF SUB-DIVISIONAL MUNSHI AND THE DEPUTY COLLECTOR'S MUNSHI.

***271. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that each sub-divisional officer of the Irrigation Department in charge of a revenue sub-division has under

[Mian Nurullah.]

him a clerk and a munshi, who specially deals with the vernacular dâk;

(b) whether most of the duties of a sub-divisional officer for revenue purposes overlap those of the deputy collector;

(c) whether Government have ever considered the question of the amalgamation of the post of the sub-divisional munshi and the deputy collector's munshi;

(d) whether it is a fact that each of the executive engineer, sub-divisional officer and deputy collector 's munshi has under him a despatcher;

(e) whether it is necessary to give every one of these munshis a separate despatcher?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) No, only to some extent.

(c) No.

(d) No. Only a Divisional Officer's munshi has got an assistant munshi attached to his office, and he does the work of despatcher also.

(e) Does not arise.

Mian Nurullah : Will the Honourable Member read what is given in the Revenue Manual about the overlap of the duties of sub-divisional officers and deputy collectors and lay them before the House?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The rules can be consulted by the honourable members if they so desire by applying to the Irrigation Branch.

APPRECIATION OF GANDHI-IRVIN NEGOTIATIONS.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders, General) : Sir, yesterday I gave notice of a resolution which I wanted to move. I did not then have the opportunity of consulting the leading men in all parties. I have had that opportunity now, and I find that there is a concensus of opinion in support of the propriety of moving this resolution. The resolution is this :—

> "This Council puts on record its great satisfaction at the settlement arrived at between His Excellency the Governor-General in Council and Mahatma Gandhi and the Working Committee of the Congress;
>
> This Council appreciates the statesmanship of Lord Irwin and the wisdom shown by Mahatma Gandhi, and congratulates the delegates of the Round Table Conference who in Delhi carried on negotiations which terminated successfully;
>
> The Council hopes that the good spirit shown will continue and will result in evolving a constitution satisfactory to all parties."

I take this opportunity of congratulating the Punjab Council for the policy of co-operation which it has advocated from the very outset (*hear, hear*). The seed was sown and the harvest is ripe and is now being gathered. It has been said that no rule of conduct is moral unless its universal acceptability is proved. I affirm the converse proposition that when the universally beneficial nature of a rule of conduct is established and has been accepted by all, its propriety and its moral character is established beyond doubt.

I am glad that the spirit of co-operation which this Council showed has now been accepted by all. Those who have read the speeches made at the plenary session of the Conference must have found that many of the Liberal delegates, I mean the delegates belonging to the Liberal Party, were diffident about the success of the deliberations on which they were going to launch. Most of them said that they were not in a position to deliver goods. So frequently was this phrase used that it became almost a common phrase and many speakers got up and said that they were not in a position to deliver goods unless the best organised and the most advanced party took part in the deliberations of the Conference which decided the future of India. I am glad that the object with which they had been working has been achieved. Now, I invite the attention of my friends to the fact that if those who were invited to the Conference had adopted a policy of boycott, there would have been no Conference and if there had been no Conference there would have been no speech by the Prime Minister inviting the co-operation of all who were interested in the constitution of the country and if there had been no speech, the day that we are seeing now, the day that has dawned, would never have dawned. No democratic country can go on without opposition that is true, but opposition to particular measures and to particular policies is of quite a different nature from opposition to the constitution itself. It is of essential importance to peace and tranquillity of the country that all those who have any opinions about the constitution should take part in framing that constitution and I am glad to observe that we can hopefully look forward to the time when all parties will take part in framing such a constitution and I wish that it may evolve a constitution acceptable to all. Lord Irwin has been anxious from the very beginning to secure this sort of co-operation and to put the country in a state of peace and tranquillity. He has been incessant in his efforts and I am glad that he has after all succeeded. There were times when Mahatma Gandhi's critics called him a dreamer and a revolutionary. It is gratifying to me to find that he has proved to be a man of practical wisdom, conversant with the particular affairs of human life and has given proof of wisdom in agreeing to the settlement that has been arrived at. I gave you one reason for moving the resolution that I felt very much satisfied and gratified because the policy which the Punjab Council advocated at the very beginning has after all proved acceptable to all and has been accepted by all, but there is another reason in my mind for which I have moved this resolution. I am sorry to say that we were not able to solve the communal problem in the Conference and that the greatest difficulty arose from the case of the Punjab where there was not only one minority but two important minorities. Let the settlement now arrived at by parties which were most distant from each other and which were at opposite poles be an object lesson (*hear, hear*), and let us hope that we will, if we show some spirit of accommodation and compromise, be able to arrive at some understanding. When success is achieved there, I know everything else will have been achieved (*hear, hear*).

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh (Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath. The settlement has undoubtedly been received all over the country with great rejoicings and I believe the Government must have

[Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh.]
also felt a great relief from anxious times and the unpleasant duties it had to perform in the maintenance of peace and order in the country, the primary duty of a Government. It is a great victory not only for common sense as has been commented by the *London Times*, but for the policy of co-operation ; it is a triumph of British statesmanship and Indian practical sagacity. India owes a great debt of gratitude to that great Englishman, Lord Irwin, for his sympathy, steadfastness, sincerity of purpose and perseverance (*hear, hear*) exhibited throughout his regime in dealing with the Indian problem and this last achievement is undoubtedly unparalleled in the history of British India. This credit is, to a great extent, shared by the Government of India and all provincial Governments in helping the settlement without whose co-operation it would not have been possible for this settlement to be arrived at. It will not be out of place here for me to refer to the British statesmen. Those of us who have had the privilege of attending the Round Table Conference had the pleasure and honour of meeting those statesmen at close quarters and we all feel convinced of the great sympathy, wide vision and broadmindedness in regard to Indian problems that the British statesmen have shown in satisfying Indian aspirations. Without that sympathy of British statesmen this restoration of peace would not have been possible. I need hardly refer here about Mahatma Gandhi. He is the one man who is at this moment more known in the world, more talked of and more respected than any other individual and it is really a wonder how such a frail personality worked so hard for hours together without taking any food in the interests of peace and in the interests of the happiness of millions of his countrymen. I would also on this occasion like to refer, as the resolution makes reference to them, to the three delegates of the Round Table Conference, who also worked hard for bringing about this settlement. We know, and those who attended the Round Table Confernece know well, how much these three patriotic Indians deserve the gratitude of the whole country. They not only worked hard at the Round Table Conference but they worked harder in the interests of peace here at Delhi. Sir, after this settlement a greater responsibility rests on our shoulders. If we continue to work in the spirit of the settlement and show good will to one another, I am sure the settlement which is just the beginning of the work ahead of us will usher in a new era of peace and happiness. I believe all the communities will realise the spirit of the time and will try to compose their differences. If they do so there is a great future in store for this country. Without making up our differences I am afraid the great work over which we are now rejoicing will be undone. I am not without hope that all communities will realise the gravity of the situation and will realise equal to the occasion. With these words I heartily support the motion.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, truce is generally irksome and peace is sometimes still worse. When there is war between two nations and a truce is called, the truce is, as a rule, worse than the state of war for either side. Sometimes peace when it is concluded, turns out to be worse than the actual war. Happily, however, in this case the truce is welcomed by everybody in England and in India. Nobody seems to have gained any upper hand and it is really a truce

arranged by two great men representing two great countries, and they have arrived at a formula which is honourable to both countries, a formula which we hope would work well.

We have been passing through very, very anxious times for the last eight months. It may be that many of us did not actually join the fray on the one side or the other. Yet there was no true patriot in this country who had not his heart in the struggle, may be his head did not go with it. But there can be no doubt that the tension of the situation was felt by every one whether big or small belonging to one party or the other. And this truce between two great men which is going to bring peace to both countries augurs well for the future constitution.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East, Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: I whole heartedly support the resolutuion that has been moved by Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath. There was a time when pessimists thought that the viewpoints of the Congress and the Government were so fundamentally different that it would be extremely difficult, if not altogether impossible, for any settlement to be arrived at even in respect of the conditions of a truce. In fact even while negotiations were going on, a stage was reached when they had virtually broken down. But the ultimate result of a settlement goes to show what two good and God-fearing men could really do and what a spirit of reasonable accommodation can achieve. Everybody heaved a sigh of relief when it became known that the two great men, Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin had come to a settlement by which it became possible for a very, very important section of the Indian population to enter the Round Table Conference and help forward the future constitution of India. When the Simon Commission came out to this country the Commission was boycotted by a very large and most important section of politicians of this country. This boycott was regarded as very regrettable at the time by many people who believed in co-operation. However, all's well that ends well. The spirit of reasonableness that has been shown by Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin now makes it possible for the two parties to sit together and hammer out a constitution which will, let us hope, be acceptable to all parties concerned.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member): Sir, every one who has the interest of this country at heart will welcome the Delhi settlement. Let us hope that it will usher in an era of genuine good will and conciliation and lead to a better understanding not only between people of Great Britain and India but also amongst the various classes and communities and interests, and thereby make the task of those who are at the present moment engaged in evolving a suitable constitution for this country easier. His Excellency Lord Irwin deserves our sincere congratulations on the successful culmination of his benevolent efforts for restoring good will and harmony. Let us hope that his and Mr. Gandhi's labours will restore permanent peace in the country and further strengthen the ties which join Great Britain and India.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Before the Council resumes the general discussion of the Budget, I rise to request you, Sir, that the felicitous congratulations of this Council may be conveyed to His Excellency Lord Irwin and it be specially pointed out that the principle of co-operation for which this Council pledged itself from the outset has after all triumphed. I hope that the request will be complied with.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: [South-East, Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: I join with the Honourable the Finance Member in paying a tribute which he has paid to his predecessor in the speech which he made in introducing his budget. I also congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member and his able Secretary for having presented to this Council a lucid statement. In fact, the Finance Department had a very uphill task to perform this year. In the midst of so many pre-occupations relating to civil disobedience, the campaign of non-payment of taxes and many other disturbing factors in the political life of the province, it was not an easy thing to devote sufficient time and concentrated attention to the framing of a budget and producing a fairly satisfactory result.

I shall now proceed to a few points to which I wish to draw the attention of this House as well as of Members of Government. The first point is that in the south-eastern parts of the province economic conditions are worse than in any part of the province at present. For the last three years there has been a succession of failures of crops. I cannot speak with anything like authority with regard to the Ambala district but with regard to the other districts of that division, I can speak with more or less confidence, and venture to suggest that agricultural conditions have been very unfavourable for the last three years on these districts. It will require a liberal remission of land revenue this year to enable the people to tide over the present hard conditions. It will be remembered that the monsoon retreated very early this year and I do not think that, after the middle of August, the Rohtak district or the districts of Gurgaon, Hissar or even Karnal received any rainfall worth the name. The result was a very indifferent *kharif* crop and disappointing sowings for *rabi*. Unfortunately even winter rains have failed this year and we had only a very slight shower on the 3rd of this month for the first time in the Rohtak district. So, it seems that unless the Government is prepared to take a very liberal view of the situation and comes to the rescue of the people, the zamindars will find it very difficult indeed to pull through. There are one or two facts to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government to indicate that their action in the past has not been very liberal. Of course it does not mean that people do not appreciate what has been done already by the Government for them. The Rohtak district is exceedingly grateful for a remission of 37½ per cent. of the *abiana* granted by Government in respect of sugarcane. But that does not take us very far. At all events there are certain facts and figures which indicate that so far as the remission of land revenue is concerned, Government, generally speaking, is illiberal and I will prove that by quoting the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member himself. In Gurgaon *kharif* of 1928, failed to the extent of two-thirds, *rabi* of 1928 failed to the extent of three-fourths; *kharif* 1929 again failed to the extent of two-thirds, while in *rabi* 1930, the area sown was half that of normal and even out of this one-third failed. And yet from the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member it is apparent that the total relief by way of remission of land revenue given was only Rs. 10 lakhs. From the same speech it also appears that this remission does not relate to Gurgaon alone or even to the districts of the Ambala division taken together but in respect of the province as a whole. If in a single district there have been three or four failures of harvests and to

an extent which brings the yield practically to about four annas in the rupee nobody with the remission of ten lakhs for the whole province in 2½ years can claim that Government has been at all liberal in granting remissions of land revenue. I hope Government will be more liberal this time.

In respect of the Rohtak district I learn that the area sown for *rabi* falls short of the normal by about 20 per cent. and unfortunately both the winter rain and the water-supply in canals having failed the yield is likely to fall very short of the normal. Therefore it is very necessary that Government should give some relief to the agriculturists of the Rohtak district.

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There is another important matter to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government in this connection. I understand that the local officers of the Police Department have proposed the stationing of punitive police on a very large scale in the Rohtak district. This is not the time when I should enter into discussion of the grounds put forward by local officers for such action. But I claim that in making that report they have thoroughly misjudged the circumstances or the causes on which they are understood to have based their recommendation. I would ask Government to consider the matter very carefully before they come to a decision on the question. If a dispassionate view of the situation is taken, it will be found that no punitive police is required at all in the district. Of course I admit that there was a large number, an abnormal number, of dacoities in the district this year, but those dacoities were due to causes for which the people at large are not to blame. Having regard also to the serious economic depression in the district I hope that the Government will take a liberal view of the situation. I also feel that in view of the fact that normal conditions have been restored in the district, Government will see no necessity for the punitive police.

With regard to the Irrigation Department, speaking on one of the resolutions before the Council, I drew the attention of the House to certain figures relating to the working expenses in that department. I will not repeat those figures now, but I shall confine myself simply to certain important percentages. In a period of eight years, between 1920-21 and 1928-29, the working expenses in this department have risen by 44 per cent., while the increase in the area under canal irrigation has been only 20 per cent., and the increase in revenue has been only 26·7 per cent. Another matter which requires the attention of the House is this: the proportion of working expenses to receipts in 1920-21 was slightly under 32 per cent., it rose in 1928-29 to over 35 per cent. While the increase in revenue has only been 26.7 per cent. and the increase in the area brought under irrigation only 20 per cent., it passes one's comprehension why the working expenses should have increased to such an alarming extent. With these figures in front of us can it be claimed that the Irrigation Department is run on commercial lines? Will any commercial firm view with equanimity such a high proportion of working expenses to income?

Mr. H. Calvert : Do you include interest charges also ?

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I do not think working expenses include interest charges. I have taken the figures from one of the replies given by the Honourable Member for Revenue. He has used the words "working expenses" in describing these figures and you know whether they include interest charges or not. I do not think they do.

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Anyway, I am only comparing proportions of expenditure at two different periods. If the proportion was 32 per cent. in 1920-21, why has it been allowed to go up to 35 per cent. in 1928-29 ? You have a number of officers and a certain amount of establishment. If you add some area to the area already irrigated that should not necessarily mean an increase in the number of officers, at least not in excess of the proportion justified by the increase in irrigated area. In this case, however, the working expenses have increased out of all proportion to the increase in the irrigated area and the increase in receipts. That should never happen. One of the responsible officers of this Department told me that if economy was to be the guiding principle the working expenses could be brought down to 15 per cent., that 20 per cent. would be a fair amount to be spent and that 25 per cent. ought to be regarded as a very generous provision for working expenses. But the working expenses stand at present at 35 per cent. The Honourable Revenue Member speaking on one of the resolutions, not very long ago, asked for suggestions as to how the department could be run on commercial lines. This invitation is welcome, particularly because it seems that so far the department has been run on anything but commercial lines. It is time that the matter should be seriously looked into.

The next point to which I now pass is the claim of the Finance Department that the budget has been practically balanced. The total receipts for the coming year have been put at Rs. 11·18 crores and extraordinary receipts have been estimated at Rs. 66,00,000, making a total of Rs. 11·84 crores. The total revenue expenditure is put at Rs. 10·83 crores and capital expenditure charged to revenue at Rs. 1·05 crores, making a total expenditure of Rs. 11·88 crores. If we take into account only ordinary receipts and revenue expenditure, leaving out of calculation extraordinary receipts and expenditure charged to revenue, we shall find that there is a surplus balance of Rs. 35,00,000. If we include under revenue expenditure the capital expenditure charged to revenue there will be a deficit of Rs. 70,00,000, for while the total expenditure is Rs. 11·88 crores the receipts would only be Rs. 11·18 crores. Of course, I have excluded extraordinary receipts from this calculation and taken into account both capital expenditure charged to revenue and ordinary revenue expenditure. However, if you include extraordinary receipts also under revenue account, you will find that the figures balance each other except for a difference of Rs. 4,00,000.

Another serious point is the way in whch retrenchment and economy have been effected. It seems that the axe has fallen very heavily on the beneficent departments. Education alone has come in for a reduction of over Rs. 8,00,000, while in the Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Branch) there is a reduction of only Rs. 7,25,000. The Irrigation Department shows a reduction of only Rs. 2,50,000. So that the two branches of the Public Works Department show a reduction of no more than a little less than Rs. 10,00,000. Education alone has come in for a reduction of Rs. 8,50,000. This is not all. For the budget year the beneficent departments have been made to suffer to the extent of Rs. 21,50,000 out of a total reduction of Rs. 42,50,000

Here again, I would draw the attention of the House to the way in which this reduction has been effected. Let us examine the claim of Government and see whether there has been any real saving. The Honourable Finance Member said that he had effected a saving of Rs. 9,00,000 in the Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads Branch) by postponing works actually in progress. If you only postpone your expenditure how can you call that a saving ? No economy has been effected. It does not really represent any economy to postpone works that are actually in progress. In the end it will really prove to be false economy. The real way to secure economy in the Public Works Department would be to reduce the rates for works.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : That has been done.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Yes, it has been said that instructions have been issued to lower the rates in proportion to the fall in the price of labour. But whether those instructions have been actually carried out or not remains to be seen. I do not believe those instructions have been carried out. However, let me proceed. In answer to a certain question put by me last year it was admitted by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture that in many cases tenders were offered at a rate which was more than 20 per cent. lower than the estimated cost. That shows on what a lavish scale the estimates are framed by the Public Works Department. There is no escape from either of these two alternatives : either the estimates are lavish or the engineers pass works as sound which are really not sound. And neither of these two alternatives is creditable to the Public Works Department. I submit with the greatest emphasis that I can command, that the question of lowering rates has to be very carefully looked into by the Government. If this is done and rates are lowered, in these two branches of the Public Works Department alone the Government can reduce expenditure by about a crore of rupees.

I think the expenditure on works alone in the two branches, roughly speaking, amounts to nearly three crores, and if contractors can offer tenders more than 20 per cent. less than the estimated cost, they are certainly making some profit for themselves, which means that the present rates can be easily lowered by 25 per cent., and, in view of the fall that has taken place in the price of commodities, it should be possible to lower these rates even still further. So, if you apply the axe to the departments to which it should be applied, you will be able to save a good deal without stinting beneficent departments as has been done in the expenditure for the present year and in the budget for the coming year.

I should also like to draw the attention of Government to one more point which relates particularly to the south-eastern districts of the Punjab. The number of *chaukidars* in the south-eastern districts is very large. There are villages in which the number of *chaukidars* exceeds six, there is a very large number of villages in which the number of *chaukidars* is four or more. Now this is a direction in which Government can easily give relief to the people without suffering any loss itself. The *chaukidars*, it is notorious, do not do any service to the village community. They are paid by the village community, but any service that they do is done not to the village communities but to officers of Government. In the ordinary course of things the burden of their salaries should fall on Government itself. However, if that cannot be done at present it should be the

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easiest thing to do to reduce the number of *chaukidars* wherever it is in excess of actual needs. Then, on the question of appointment and dismissal of these *chaukidars* the village communities are not consulted. Their dismissal and their appointment should be made to depend upon the will of the village communities. This is a reform which Government can easily undertake, and if Government effects this reform it will lighten the burden of a large number of villages in the south-eastern portion of the province at least. I am not acquainted with conditions in other parts of the province to be able to say whether a reduction in the number of *chaukidars* is possible, but wherever there are large villages it is the easiest thing to do and Government, in conditions like the present when economic depression is so great and financial stringency so acute, ought to be able to look into the matter and effect this reform as soon as possible. As a matter of fact, I have been working at this question for the last two years. An assurance was held out to me more than a year ago, but nothing has been done so far. At any rate Government has not done anything to the knowledge of the public in relation to this question so far. They may have consulted their officers. But officers unfortunately always press only departmental views. Their spirit of departmentalism never leaves them, and therefore they never see the point of the view of the public in general.

Another point to which I would like to refer is the abolition of the revenue reserve fund. In accordance with the instructions that have been received from the Secretary of State, I understand, it has been decided to abolish this particular fund. I do not look with favour on the abolition of this fund. I should have liked this fund to be strengthened further and further to the furthest limit possible, so that Government could fall back upon the fund at the time of unusual scarcity, and when the amount in the fund had increased to a sufficiently high figure, the fund could have been used even to give permanent relief to the small landholder. So I would ask the Government to make a reference to the higher authorities in order to secure the restoration of this fund.

I have just a few more words to say with reference to certain remarks of the Honourable the Finance Member. He says that democracy can be economical only at the cost of popularity. Of course, everybody admits that ordinarily a representative form of Government is more costly than autocracy or despotism. But it does not necessarily follow that the coming democracy in India can be popular only at the expense of finance. I hope it will not be impossible to effect some sort of a compromise between the two extremes of popularity and economy. Democracy can be installed in power when in effective power can run the administration cheaply enough. At present democracy has no hold over your salaries. Salaries have really been pitched much too high in proportion to the average income per head in this country. The salaries of high officers are out of all proportion to our income and no democracy should ordinarily allow such a disparity between the salaries of its high officers and the income per head of the population. That would be one direction in which probably democracy will try to bring down expenses. Government has so far been very reluctant to tackle in a reasonable manner this question of salaries. They take shelter behind one pretext or another in order to keep the

question of salaries unaffected by the present economic depression. Various ways were suggested in which the officers could come to the rescue of the people at the present moment. They have all been brushed aside. I hope that when democracy is installed in power we will see that only reasonable salaries are allowed to all its officers in all the various grades.

There was another reference made by the Finance Member to the question of agitation, that agitation had been a very expensive luxury. I think he was quite right in saying that, but the new settlement that has been arrived at, ought in course of time lead to a result which would do away with agitation altogether. Even the present truce that has been arranged will call a halt to the activities which represented expensive agitation. With the disappearance of this agitation I hope Government will find it possible to effect economies in the budget to a much larger extent than it has done so far. The people are not at present in a position to pay anything in the way of fresh taxation. They stand in immediate need of relief, particularly the agricultural portion of the population is in a very bad way. I do not mean that other classes have not been hit hard by the depression, but it is the agriculturists who have suffered most and the failure of crops places them in a most deplorable condition. I hope Government will do its level best to decrease expenditure and save money which should be used to afford relief to the poor agriculturists of this province.

Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave (Non-official, nominated): The Budget always inspires me with awe as I have all the average woman's dislike of figures, and in view of the difficulties with which Government has been faced in the preparation of this Budget it is with more than usual diffidence that I venture to make a few remarks.

I should like to refer to two points mentioned by my friend Mr. Maya Das in his speech. Speaking of Lady Health Visitors he deplored the reduction of the grant and praised the excellent work done by these women. In England, Health Visitors are either trained nurses and midwives or women with adequate sanitary training who are also midwives. I suggest that one in every three Health Visitors be required to have adequate sanitary training and more use be made of them in this particular direction. Women can go into the houses and point out insanitary conditions to women in their homes and women can accomplish much more in the way of sanitary reform because they will see much more than the average men as they walk through the streets and gullies. Men have been a conspicuous failure in this work as the insanitary condition of our towns abundantly testifies.

Surely the time has come when we really must make serious efforts to cope with the conditions that prevail in our Indian cities. Things have come to such a pass that we cannot possibly delay the matter any longer. The population is increasing by leaps and bounds and sanitary conditions are appalling. In this capital city of ours, for instance, houses of city type have spread out into the Civil Station in all directions and city mistakes have been repeated and exaggerated till a dreadful state of insanitation has been reached. It is not till women interest themselves in these matters that real progress can be made.

Then, Mr. Maya Das also spoke of the Industrial School in Ferozepore which he said had been a great success. I should like to see these industrial schools extended and multiplied, and I should like to see my people also in-

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cluded in their benefits, because, situated as Anglo-Indians are at present, avenues of employment are closing to them in all directions. It is of vital importance that they receive industrial training too. I endorse Mr. Maya Das' suggestion that a halt be called in higher education and attention is concentrated upon industrial training for some time. At present there are a number of men—young men and old—who are without employment; their numbers are increasing every day, and in their futile search for employment they are being reduced to despair.

Then to turn to my third point, I wish to speak about the grants to municipalities. I wish to ask Government to be very watchful of the use made of money granted to municipalities because of the results that they have achieved. Recently there has been in this town of ours a great scandal about the Infectious Diseases Hospital for which Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 3½ lakhs. Anybody can go down to the Shish Mahal area and see for himself in what a disgraceful set of buildings the hospital is located, within a stone's throw of a slaughter house which is not even protected by wire gauze—a building of the most primitive kind. When the foundation stone of the Infectious Diseases Hospital was laid by Sir Malcolm Hailey the municipality undertook to remove the slaughter house before a single patient was taken into the hospital. Smallpox and tubercular patients are there now and the slaughter house from which all our mutton comes still stands in close proximity. (*Hear, hear.*) I wish to ask Government to be more careful in granting money to municipalities which use it in this fashion and do not show a greater sense of duty with regard to public health and do not tackle questions of drainage. I do not want to tell you here all the dreadful things I know about Lahore drains. Many municipalities do not seriously consider questions of public health and drainage, and if they do not discharge their duties satisfactorily in these directions the power of spending should be taken away from them and put into the hands of those who will use the money for the benefit of the public. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*)

Malak Muhammad Din [Lahore City, Muhammadan, Urban]: It is much to be regretted that the extraordinary revenue receipts which, as a matter of principle and as a matter of practice, have been used before on works of capital nature should have been used now by the Finance Department in balancing the revenue accounts. As the Memorandum shows, out of Rs. 69 lakhs, 59 lakhs have been so used and only 10 lakhs have been left for capital expenditure and provincial loans. One could sincerely wish that the revenue receipts had not been so largely drawn upon for recouping the exhaustion of balance in the revenue receipts. Lest this year's innovation be turned into a precedent for the future, the Honourable Finance Member should give an assurance to the House that every effort will be made to ward off such contingencies. Again, it does not reveal a very re-assuring feature of our finances that the revenue receipts should have been permitted to absorb so completely the revenue reserve fund which has altogether ceased to exist. I would much rather borrow another 10 lakhs to tide over the temporary embarrassments than to give such a rude good-bye to a fund which had been started with sanguine hopes of its ultimate development into a savings bank. Let us hope that as soon as conditions permit us we shall re-open it, and let us also hope that we shall no more have to see its extinction a second time.

Although the current budget shows a deficit of only Rs. 47 lakhs, taking into account our credit balance of Rs. 128 lakhs which also has since vanished into thin air, we are losers by the appalling figure of Rs. 175 lakhs during the last three years. Whatever the causes responsible for this sad state of affairs, the enormity of the losses is exceedingly disconcerting. If the axe of retrenchment which has so successfully been applied this year had been resorted to in the first year of depression, our position would have been much more satisfactory to-day. If not creditors, we should certainly not have been debtors. But the present Finance Member and the present Finance Secretary cannot be blamed for the policy pursued by their predecessors. On the contrary, if anything, they deserve our gratitude, for having kept the deficit figures for the current year to their present low level which might well have mounted up by half a crore if they had not had recourse to various expedients. As regards this year's budget, I think it is a very nicely-balanced budget. You may ponder over the speech delivered by the Finance Member, or you may read page after page of the Memorandum to see traces of the masterly grasp of the subject. Only if the present Finance Member and his chief lieutenant had been at the helm of affairs from the very outset of the reforms era, I think our financial position would have been much more satisfactory to-day. I congratulate them on their performance. I would, however, suggest that in case we have more "swings than round-abouts"—and I wish and fervently pray for an unbroken series of swings now—the Finance Department may make it possible to restore their grants to the beneficent departments on whom the axe has fallen the severest. We may not need the additional amount provided for the police, thanks to the satisfactory ending of the Gandhi-Irwin conversations, we may have, if not bumper, normal harvests, our extraordinary receipts may well be over the estimated figures because of the improvement in the market conditions which is already discernible. On the disbursement side of the budget also we may make certain savings. In this connection I would suggest that although a little more than seven lakhs has been reduced from the budget of the Public Works Department, we might well curtail their estimates considerably more, because the wind fall in the shape of our share from the Central Road Board which we have begun to receive from this year and which in the next year may aggregate to about Rs. 9½ lakhs, would be their exclusive monopoly and they will be spending it. I would also suggest that this House, on a resolution of Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana has decided that avenues of fresh taxation should be explored. This House by another resolution has agreed, I am not going to criticise this resolution, to create a committee of retrenchment. As the object of these two resolutions is one and the same, the economic improvement of the province, would I suggest that a Committee called the Committee of Ways and Means should be constituted to perform both these functions. As, Carlyle, I think it is, has shrewdly observed, "there is a lot in a name," and the name Retrenchment Committee cannot be calculated to inspire confidence or obtain the sympathetic co-operation from the services.

Mr. F. H. Puckle [Finance Secretary]: I do not ask the indulgence of the House for a long time. There are one or two points, mainly concerning the way in which the budget has been put, which it might perhaps save further discussion if I explain shortly now Before I say anything

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may I on behalf of myself and the members of the Finance Department under me thank the honourable members for their much too flattering remarks. I am glad that they have found the budget and the memorandum clear. That is their main object and if we have achieved that, we have gained our purpose. The main criticism that has been made in the budget is that it is too optimistic on the receipt side. It is very unusual for the Finance Secretary to have to stand up in this House and defend himself against a charge of over-estimating receipts. There used to be a regular outstanding accusation in this House that the Finance Department conceals the assets in such a way that nobody can detect them. I hope that some of the speeches delivered in the House prove that that accusation is finally exploded. Though I admit, and I have said so in my memorandum, that the revenue receipts are optimistic, I do not think that they are unthinkingly optimistic. If honourable members will refer to paragraph 17 of the memorandum, they will find that Rs. 10 lakhs under Buildings, Roads and Hydro-Electric receipts and Rs. 11 lakhs under beneficent departments can be excluded from the total receipts of Rs. 11,18 lakhs. These two receipts are in the nature of a wind fall and they are not going to come again and they can be excluded from any examination of the receipts for the next year for purposes of comparison with previous years. That brings down the estimated receipts to Rs. 10,97 lakhs, one lakh less than the total of the budget for the current year. If we now take that figure as a whole, if honourable members will refer to page 10 of the budget,—13 Irrigation, Working Expenses—they will see that canal working expenses are down by 26 lakhs. Therefore, the real figure on the receipt side which we budget for next year is Rs. 26 lakhs less than we budgetted for last year, on account of the saving in expenses.

Irrigation receipts are a deduct entry, that is to say, they are deducted from the gross Irrigation receipts, and the saving of Rs. 26 lakhs in expenses of course brings the net figure of receipts up. That is why under Irrigation, though the gross total is less than it was for the current year, the net total is considerably greater. To take the items of receipts in more detail, the figure for Land Revenue was criticised. That again is based more or less on the same grounds as those on which the estimate of the current year was based, that is to say allowance has been made for suspensions and remission as in a normal year and account has been taken of growth of the area under cultivation and all calculable factors have been considered. It is not possible in an estimate like Land Revenue Receipts for the Finance Department to go and say " we will cut 25 per cent. because Government may find it necessary to grant remissions." If remissions are required, they will be given. It is a matter which is not primarily a concern of the Finance Department. We can only base our estimates on our normal expectations of people paying up their revenue in full. As regards Excise and Stamps the figures for the next year are put practically at the same figure as the revised estimate for the current year in the hope that things may get no worse. It is very hard to say that they will get worse, but it is equally hard to say that they will get better, because everything to-day is very uncertain. Therefore the figures are based on the revised estimates of the present year. In considering the estimates for receipts honourable members ought to remember that the budget is put in its final

form by the end of January and therefore all figures are necessarily rather a guess. What we try to do is to make an intelligent guess. The honourable member from Mokal complained that extraordinary receipts have been put too high and I think this was repeated by another honourable member. Now, Extraordinary Receipts are not entirely the product of the sale of agricultural land, as honourable members will see on a reference to page 57 of the Budget. They will see that proceeds from the sale of undeveloped agricultural land are put down at 7 lakhs below the Revised Estimates and at 27 lakhs below the original Estimates for the current year. What makes up the figure in the budget estimate is the expectation of increased returns from temporary cultivation which, being a source of income which will eventually disappear as the lands are sold, is put under extraordinary receipts. I can assure honourable members that the figure 66 lakhs is the result of pruning down very considerably what have been considered to be the too optimistic estimates of officers in the districts and with any fortune at all, there is no reason why that figure should not be reached. I am not sure how far it includes provision for any fresh sale of agricultural land next year but I think it does not include that. It includes, of course, the recovery of instalments of the price of land offered and accepted in previous years. The honourable member who spoke last regretted that extraordinary receipts had been diverted to prop up the revenue account. No one regrets that more than the Finance Department, but beggars cannot be choosers. The revenue account has to be balanced some way or other, otherwise we stand declared as bankrupts and I do not think this House will consider that to use extraordinary receipts to prop up a revenue account in a bad year is an expedient less desirable than borrowing from the Government of India at a comparatively high rate of interest to achieve the same result. The result has got to be achieved somehow or other. Several speakers have lamented the disappearance of the Revenue Reserve Fund. That, as the House will remember, was intended to provide a fund on which we could draw when our revenues unexpectedly fell below our hopes. There were considerable difficulties about maintaining the Fund from the accounts point of view. In the first place, it was rather absurd in a year when you had a deficit in your revenue account, as has happened during the last two or three years, to transfer ten lakhs from revenue account, thus making your deficit bigger, and then in the same year to take back ten lakhs from the reserve fund to help the revenue account. This is like taking a rupee from one pocket to the other and returning it the next day. For that reason, and other reasons to which I need not refer, they are mostly technical, the Secretary of State decided that the Revenue Reserve Fund in its present form should be discontinued. If we want to achieve the same result it is open for us in a favourable year when we have a revenue balance on the right side to devote more money for the redemption of debt. This comes to much the same thing as keeping a reserve fund because it saves you in interest. The other way to achieve the same object is to build up a balance in the revenue account. I see that the honourable member from Rohtak shakes his head. It does certainly require more courage and more self-restraint to leave a balance in the revenue account to grow than it does to take 10 or 15 lakhs out of the reserve fund. But it comes exactly to the same thing if, at the end of a year, you keep a closing balance large enough

[Mr. F. H. Puckle.]
to carry you over without borrowing anything. It makes no practical difference whether that surplus is in your revenue balance or in a reserve fund. If there is a need you use your balance or you use your reserve fund. But it does require more courage to avoid giving away this balance when you are urged to reduce taxation, instead of keeping it in reserve against a rainy day (*Hear, hear*).

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan [Sialkot, Muhammadan, Rural]: Sir, I associate myself with all that has been said in appreciation of the labours of the Honourable Finance Member, the Finance Secretary and their department. In a way this does appear to be a balanced budget but from points of view which ought to conduce towards the satisfaction of this House over a budget, it is not a balanced budget. No doubt, it is not in the slightest degree the fault of the Finance Member or of his Department. The estimated receipts are not higher so as to enable them to spend more on beneficent departments, but the fact remains that in this sense every budget could be made a balanced budget, by cutting down expenditure where it is most needed. This budget has been balanced to a considerable extent by depriving the beneficent departments of not only more money that was urgently needed to carry their programme forward, but even by taking away from them what they should have received in a normal year. As I have said it is nobody's fault. It is the result of circumstances over which none of us can exercise any control. But that is the real condition of the Budget, and I am troubled not only by the fact that this budget is of that nature but by the apprehension that more and more budgets in the future are likely to be of this nature. With the tremendous amount of work that remains to be done both in the towns and the countryside of this province in order to enable the people of this province to live decent lives if not to attain to a higher standard of comfort, we require a great deal more money to spend on the beneficent departments. On the other hand, the expenditure bill is steadily rising and so far as one can see the salary bill for running the machinery of administration alone is not in the future likely to be less than it is to-day. It is bound to be much more and that is my chief anxiety. We all know that we are at this moment at the threshhold of a new constitutional era and, Sir, whatever satisfaction may be felt over the theory that the administration of this province and the administration of the country is in future to be entrusted into the hands of the people of this province and the people of this country respectively, there can be no real satisfaction unless, as a result of this change, there is going to be a considerable amelioration in the lot of the people of this province. If that is not to result from a change of Government, to the ordinary man in the country the change in the Government will bring no benefit and no consolation whatsoever. That is rather a large question and I do not want to enter into the many phases of it. But there is one matter which relates directly to this question of the Budget to which I not only wish to draw the attention of this House, but desire to press seriously upon the attention of the Government of this province, so that when that question is taken up in connection with the revision of the constitution, they should be able to bring to the notice of those in whose hands the decision of that question rests, the views of this House, or rather, the views of the people of this

province expressed through their representatives, and that question is the question which has been touched upon by some honourable members, I only wish to put one or two aspects of it before the House,—is the question of drastic reduction in the expenditure on the mere running of the machinery of Government. That question has been approached from various points of view, for instance the immediate reduction of salaries generally. I am not going to touch upon the immediate reduction of salaries generally as I know that that raises many and very difficult questions at this stage. But if we approach the same question from another point of view we would avoid these difficulties and yet for the future lay the foundations of a more economic form of Government. There may be some truth in the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member that a democratic Government is necessarily an expensive Government. But a democratic indigenous form of Government need not necessarily be more expensive than a foreign bureaucratic Government. And now when we are going to lay the foundations of an indigenous form of Government, even though the form of that Government will be democratic, it behoves us to see that it shall not be more expensive, and not only that, but that it shall be considerably less expensive than the present form of Government. Having that in view, I would strongly press upon the Government the necessity of taking up this question and considering it from this view. We all know that, whatever may be the future constitution of India, one matter is certain, that the element of the people of this country in the services of this country is going to rise in the future rapidly. There will be a very large increase in the Indianisation of the services in all departments. Of course, there is a great deal of political satisfaction in knowing that the higher offices of the State will in future be occupied by the people of this country and not, at any rate, in such large numbers, by the people of Britain. But, as I have said, to the average man in the streets of the towns of this province or out in the fields of this province, there will be no satisfaction in that change, if the burden upon him is to continue to be as pressing or to press more and more heavily and not to be lightened, as a result of that change. And that is the question that requires serious consideration. I do not wish it said that the only result of that change which is now pending was, that in place of the British public "ruler" we had the Indian public "ruler," on the same pay, with the same emoluments and privileges and with the same mentality shorn of the splendid spirit of public service which, I have no hesitation in saying, has always inspired the British rulers. There was a great deal of justification for having an administration on the scale of expenditure on which we have had it so far. There is very little justification for having it on the same scale in the future, even from the political point of view. From the political point of view you are not going to cause any satisfaction if you are going to create a class of public "rulers," not public "servants," whose very standard of life is so far apart from the standard of life of the ordinary man of the province that there is not likely to exist any sympathy whatsoever between the people of this province and the people who will arrogate to themselves the functions of rulers in the future. That is a matter on which I feel very strongly and therefore, I most earnestly press it upon the attention of Government that they must have

4 P.M.

[Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan.]

these two matters in view. They must convert the future public servants of this province into real public *servants* and they must pay them salaries which are not out of all proportion to the means of this province and out of all proportion to the standard of life of the people of the province. If that reform is not going to be effected in the future then, as I have said, to the people of the country it will matter very little and as a matter of fact, it would be a matter of very great dissatisfaction, that they have changed one set of rulers for another set whose arrogance will be far more galling than was perhaps the just pride of the rulers whom they have displaced. That is one matter. I do not want to go into the details of this question. There are very easy methods of effecting this economy and unless this economy is effected on a considerable scale, salaries will go on rising, salary bills for every year of the administration will be heavier, till at last there will be very little left to be spent on the beneficent side of the Government. As I have said, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done and at present, our expenditure on these departments is only a fraction of what we must spend in the future, if we have the welfare of the province at heart and, if we cannot do that, the administration will not make for success, be it bureaucratic or democratic in form.

With regard to the present budget all sorts of suggestions have been made as to economies that might be effected here and economies that might be effected there. There are one or two suggestions, very minor indeed, that I wish to make not so much from a spirit of saving a few thousands of rupees with regard to the budget as out of that spirit which has been accepted in this House on one or two other occasions, with regard to those upon whom responsibility rests to set an example of sacrifice and to limit their own expenditure and their own comfort, in order that the people of this province should appreciate that their representatives have their welfare at heart and are not only willing to make speeches in furtherance of the interests of the people of this province, but are willing to set an example that they are themselves prepared to make sacrifices in order that throughout the province people might be able to make both ends meet and Government might be able to afford relief where relief is required. My suggestions are confined to just two, on the lines of those to which reference has already been made by the honourable member representing Lahore. In a line with those suggestions I suggest that during this period of financial stringency, certainly during the next year, honourable members of this House should forego the travelling allowances to which they are entitled when they come to attend the sittings of this House. In the next place, officers of Government should be prepared to stay a little longer in the plains during the summer to enable the summer session of the Council to be held in Lahore rather than at Simla. This will indicate a desire on both sides of the House, that they are willing to give up slight comforts, slight benefits to themselves. (*Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit*: Why not in Simla, if no one is to be paid travelling allowance?) Yes, it may even be held in Simla in that case. (*An Honourable Member*: How many members will attend the meeting in such a case?) I certainly would and many others will. If honourable members give it up willingly, I am not saying, if Government enforces it,

and if Government members will give it up willingly, it will be an unmistakable indication of their spirit of public service and a certain amount of economy will also be effected. I have no doubt that the Honourable Finance Member and his department will also carefully investigate such suggestions that have been made from different parts of the House. I cannot help remarking that some sort of gesture is required both from the Honourable Ministers and from non-official members of this House who not only *pose* but *are* representatives of the people to give an indication as a token of the spirit of sacrifice with which they are willing to serve the country that they are willing to forego privileges, although those suggested are at present only of a small nature, in order to afford relief to the people of this province. (*Cheers.*)

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : On a point of order, Sir. Will you kindly give a ruling as to the principle on which members are allowed to speak in this House ?

Mr. President : If the honourable member repeats such a suggestion I shall have with the consent of the House to ask him to withdraw.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture) : I listened with great pleasure to the criticism of my honourable friend from Hoshiarpur. I am glad the honourable member has drawn attention to the work, the policy and the programme of the Ministers which they carry out in conformity with the wishes of this House. Ministers represent this House and any programme or policy can only be carried out by them by cordial co-operation and support of members of this House.

There are one or two points which he raised on which I should like to dwell for a moment. The honourable member directly asked me that the last time when I talked about prices I did not make my meaning clear, regarding the depression which had taken place on account of the fall. As I am on the point I might mention what the Honourable the Finance Member said at Simla regarding the trade depression and the fall in prices. This is what he said :

> " So far as concerns those conditions which normally affect our budget estimates there is nothing adverse of which to complain. Crops during the agricultural season 1929-30, were fairly good and the monsoon of 1930, was generally normal producing on the whole satisfactory results."

This bears out what I said the other day, that so far as the production of the province was concerned, it had been normal and that the fall was only in prices. I want to dwell on this a little more. My honourable friend, the member from Hoshiarpur, will recognise that the wealth of nations consists in men and in production, and that money is merely the measure of labour and its value is stamped on it by state ; gold as gold has no value, and that the value is given by man himself. Food, clothing and other articles of every day use, in their plenitude are more essential and as long as the productive power of the country remains unaltered there is nothing to take alarm, because the prices have gone down. The Finance Member also speaking on his currency policy made the following remarks : showing how contraction in currency has an adverse effect on prices. He said :—

> " Since April 1926, there was a reduction of 18 to 20 per cent. in currency. In the same period the Calcutta index number of wholesale prices fell by 31·5 per cent., that is to say from an average of 148 in 1926, to 101 in November 1930."

[Hon. Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

Therefore I want to tell my honourable friend that so far as prices are concerned, he may expect that, now that all the countries of the world are beginning to feel the causes of depression, we may take hope that adequate currency would be available not only in India but in other parts of the world and help in steadying the prices.

On this point I want to say one thing more and that is, that India contains at least one-fifteenth of the world's population, and we ought to be a factor in affecting the level of prices in the world. I am hoping that, as we come to our own, we will more and more influence prices and will not be governed by prices in the other countries of the world. On this point, I may mention that, as you know, gram, has always been cheaper than wheat and gram has been dearer this year than wheat, and the price of gram is not affected by world prices, while the price of wheat is, because wheat can be imported into the country from other countries of the world.

Coming to our finances I want to say only one word, and I think we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the prudence of our Finance Member that while in 1921-22, the revenue stood at Rs. 864 lakhs, in 1931-32, estimates put it at Rs. 11,18 lakhs. Now, take the expenditure for the same period. The expenditure in 1921-22, was Rs. 10,69 lakhs and the estimated expenditure for 1931-32 is Rs. 10,83 lakhs, that is the revenue expenditure in the Punjab within the last ten years has only increased by 14 lakhs. I think this point has not been fully appreciated by the honourable members that the revenue expenditure of the province within the last ten years has only appeciated by about 14 lakhs while the revenue has appreciated by about 2½ crores.

Then the honourable friend from Hoshiarpur dwelt a good deal on the Mandi scheme. Well, the Mandi scheme was conceived before I came to the House and the baby was handed on to me. There are certain figures which I should certainly like to place before the House as the honourable member for Hoshiarpur was not altogether correct when he gave his. As he will remember, the original estimates for the Mandi scheme stood at Rs. 4½ crores.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : No, the original estimate was Rs. 2,76 lakhs.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : In 1925 when my friend who sits opposite (Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram) put this scheme forward before the House the estimates were Rs. 4½ crores and when the baby was handed over to me—(*A voice :* Do you disclaim the babe ?) When the Mandi Enquiry Committee went into this question they put down the estimate at 6¼ crores which includes the interest for the period of construction.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : And which excludes the cost of the railway.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The cost of the railway, as the honourable member knows, does not fall on provincial revenues and is no part of the scheme.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Was not the Kangra Valley Railway part of the scheme ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The Kangra Valley Railway as it stands now, does not form part of the scheme. Another point the honourable member tried to make was that the Lahore Electric Supply

Company can generate power at 4 pies per unit and the Mandi Scheme puts down the cost at 8·4 pies per unit. I can give him a figure which might help him to reach right conclusions. We wanted to buy power from the Lahore Electric Supply Company to supply Amritsar and we could not get it for less than 10 pies a unit. So, his quotation of 4 pies per unit was purely imaginary. The Mandi Scheme, as it stands to-day, is not without difficulties. If any of us bought a pair of bullocks or an engine and then made no arrangements to use the power, he would be held, to ridicule. This House which sanctioned the scheme has now to see that the power which is now going to be generated is usefully and profitably utilised. If this House rises to the occasion and makes use of the power, I can say that the scheme will prove of great utility to the province. Members from all sides of this House have spoken of the need of industrial development of the province. One step in that direction has been taken and that is the generation of electric power. It cannot be cheap at present but power will be available for industrial development. It is for the members of this House to see that this power is usefully and profitably employed. That is a direction in which future action of this House is required.

My friend from Lyallpur (Mr. Nurullah) spoke of subsidiary industries which are required to help agriculture, and I entirely appreciate the remarks that he made in this direction. The great problem before our agriculturists is to find some additional sources of income, in addition to what they get from their land, and the only thing that the Department so far could do in this direction was to explore the possibility of poultry farming, silk, bee-keeping and lac. The cultivation of lac in some areas has given very promising results. I hope honourable members will continue to extend their support to subsidiary industries.

Then, my friend the honourable member for Multan, Lala Sewak Ram, the son of a great engineer, somehow conceived the notion of criticising an Engineering College, and the whole of his criticism was levelled at the buildings. He said, we had put up too expensive buildings, and that engineering education could be given under trees or in buildings which were not so expensive. I myself, like the honourable member Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan, am looking forward to the time when the standard of living of our people will rise. (*A voice:* He did not say anything about it.) In this matter, all I can say is, that mechnical engineering provides and will provide in future great avenues of useful employment. If you are going to develop industries, you must train engineers who can make machinery. We find that motor cars deteriorate quickly, and thousands of engines are groaning in the villages which are not properly attended to. You can easily imagine what a great saving would be effected if you have properly trained engineers who know how to put these machines into proper working condition, and who would some day be able to manufacture machines that we may require for the industrial development of the country.

The honourable member also observed that the students turned out by the College do not find employment. I think he did not make any enquiries before making this statement for, so far as I know, most of the students who have passed out of the College have found employment, some in Government service and others in private firms, and from all sides I have received very good reports of their work.

[Hon. Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

Then he had something to say about the excise revenue. The excise revenue controls the habits of drink and at the same time gives a fair share of revenue which is practically one-tenth of the revenue of the whole province. I do not think any member in this House would like to deal lightly with such a large source of revenue. He recomended that we should place books in the hands of people preaching temperance. I can tell him that for the last year or so we have been trying to assist the Temperance Society both at Amritsar and Lahore by small grants and one of their lecturers, Sardar Sant Singh, has been delivering lectures in Lahore and other places in the cause of temperance. (*A voice :* He is delivering one to-day in Lahore.)

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Has it decreased drink or increased drink ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I would refer the honourable member to the Excise Report which shows that the number of shops has not been increased and the drink habit is also kept under control. (*Laughter.*) I was greatly indebted to Pir Akbar Ali for drawing attention to the good work done by the excise officers. He particularly mentioned the Excise Officer of Ferozepore and I bear testimony to the work that the Excise Officer of Ferozepore has been doing. He is one of our efficient officers who has done splendid work in the district.

Sardar Habib Ullah dwelt on the cost of repairing roads and the great deal of expense incurred on public buildings. I should like to place before him one or two facts. One of these is that the mileage, both of metalled and unmetalled roads, has almost doubled, and while the repairing cost which used to be Rs. 1,599 per metalled mile in 1923 and Rs. 261 per unmetalled mile in 1923 is now Rs. 1,563 for metalled and Rs. 283 for unmetalled. That is to say, from 1923 to date the repairing cost per mile has not appreciably increased, while the quality of roads has greatly improved. We are using stone metal and we are tarring roads, reducing dust trouble and giving better facilities to the people. In this matter, however, I think the province has just made a start, and there is a great scope yet to develop roads that the province requires. We must have roads connecting villages with the arterial roads and the profits to the agriculturist from the roads are greater than any amount of money that may be spent on their development.

It has been said that the Government has spent a good deal of money in building houses for public servants. That, Sir, is not altogether correct. The idea was started in the time of Sir Michael O'Dwyer nearly thirteen years ago, and so far as the Golf Road estate is concerned twenty-nine houses have been built. Most of the money has been spent on public buildings, medical, education and veterinary. Twenty-nine houses built for public servants in the course of many years is not a very big expenditure. The Golf Road estate can hold many more buildings and the sooner the estate is developed in the interest of the province the better. Many officers pay more than Rs. 250 a month as rent for their houses and each house does not consist of more than three bed rooms and two public rooms.

The honourable member, Pir Akbar Ali, complained that Government wasted money by building bridges where they were not required. He particularly mentioned the case of a bridge on the Ferozepore road. With

regard to that bridge the Irrigation Department declared that it was very dangerous, to let it remain in that condition, and therefore a new bridge was built. It is not a case of building a bridge where it is not wanted. He also referred to the bad condition of the metalled road between Ferozepore and Lahore near Ganda Singhwala. That part is now being taken up for repair.

Many honourable members have devoted a good deal of attention to effecting economics in Government expenditure. We all sincerely sympathise with such a desire, but personally I do not share the view that the prosperity of the province can be promoted by reducing the establishments and cutting down the salaries. On the other hand, we must spend more money on developments, increase production, organise credit and develop industries. If we develop the resources of the province, there will be real prosperity than any reduction of establishments throwing people out of employment. India has always practiced self-denial ; it comes easily to us, but I believe in the doctrine of self-expansion, self-organisation and self-affirmation, which will bring us more prosperity than the doctrine of self-denial has hitherto been able to do.

Mr. President : In view of the fact that there are still so many members who wish to speak I fix a duration of 15 minutes for each speech.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri (Punjab Industries): I must congratulate the Honourable Finance Member and the Finance Secretary on the Budget that they have presented to the House, not for any positive favours that they have shown to us in framing this Budget but for refraining from adding to the heavy burden of taxation which already exists, and more particularly so, when we know to our cost that the income-tax has been more than doubled by the Government of India besides other new taxes imposed by them.

Let me first deal with the point which has just been referred to by the Minister for Agriculture in reply to the Budget debate on the Hydro-Electric scheme yesterday. The point which was made yesterday was not that the particular figures quoted by the honourable member from Hoshiarpur were corrrect. In 1922, 1924 and 1925 an estimate of the net yield and total capital outlay was given to us by the Government experts and that estimate has been totally belied by subsequent experience. All this is to be found in the report of the Enquiry Committee set up by this Council. The question naturally arises : was this wrong estimate made because the Government experts did not know their job, or was it the result of waste and unnecessary expenditure during construction ? It is for the Minister to enquire which of these two hypotheses is correct. In either case, the Government experts do not deserve any credit. This report of the Enquiry Committee was made available to us last year, and most of us should have read it by this time. It shows that at the end of 12 years, after the Hydro-Electric scheme comes into working order in 1933, there will be a big deficit. Therefore, the expert Committee does not consider that the Mandi Hydro-Electric scheme will be a success. As has appeared from the speech of the Honourable Minister nobody is prepared to take responsibility for it. The Honourable Minister, Sir Jogendra Singh, has just now stated that he did not conceive it, but that he had to take it because it was passed on to him as a baby and that he did not want to see it killed in its infancy. The question is this :

[Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri.]

when the Enquiry Committee was appointed, was it not the duty of the Government experts to assist the Committee in coming to a satisfactory conclusion as regards the future of the project ? Let me now refer to page 70 of the report of the Committee to enquire into the progress of the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme. It says that on the 30th November 1929, Rs. 1,28,00,000 and odd had actually been spent by Government on this project. The second item of expenditure which is noted therein is : "Contracts entered into for the supply of plant at fixed prices—Rs. 1,41,68,100." This Enquiry Committee was appointed on the 30th July when only less than a crore of rupees had been spent. The question now is : were these contracts for about a crore and-a-half entered into by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture or by other officers before the appointment of the Enquiry Committee, or were they entered into when the Enquiry Committee was in existence ? If really these contracts amounting to about a crore and-a-half were entered into when the Enquiry Committee had been appointed, then I submit it looks like an attempt by the person who entered into the contracts to tie down the hands of the Committee and make it impossible for them to recommend the total abandonment of the scheme. The Honourable Minister owes it to the House to clear up this matter. If it is found that the contracts were entered into while the Enquiry Committee was in existence, I should say that the Honourable Minister and the Officers in charge have not been as careful as they ought to have been.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : They ought to be severely censured.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : With these remarks I do not want to carry the discussion further.

There is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the House and that is the enormous waste of money on co-operative societies. It was rightly pointed out yesterday that the Punjab Government makes a subsidy of no less than Rs. 12,50,000 for co-operative societies in maintaining a top-heavy administration in connection with these societies, which does no good either to the societies themselves or to the general administration of the province. These co-operative societies lend money to poor agriculturists at a usual rate of 12½ per cent. Considering the facilities which these societies enjoy for the recovery of their loans, how is this heavy rate justified and how is it a relief to agriculturists ? Under the law, the co-operative societies have not to file any suits ; they do not have to pay any court fee ; the decree is passed straightaway and it can be executed with ease. If, with all these facilities they still lend money at such a high rate as 12½ per cent. they have not justified their existence at all. They are not running the societies on commercial lines. Is there any justification why the State should give a subsidy of Rs. 12½ lakhs to help these societies which only lend money at such rates ? Except the salary of the Registrar and the central establishment, all other items should be charged to these societies.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : How do you get the figure of Rs. 12½ lakhs ?

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Pages 329 and 330 of the Budget Estimates show that the total expenditure is Rs. 12,27,500.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : That is not a subsidy to the co-operative societies.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Is it not a subsidy? What is it then? It is a charge on the provincial revenues. My submission is that these are commercial associations and ought to pay all their charges. What is the justification for Government employing a banking expert on Rs. 2,500 a month to do the ordinary banking work of these societies? What justification is there for Government paying for the audit of the accounts of these societies? Why should Government pay for employing 150 inspectors, 20 assistant registrars, 3 deputy registrars and one registrar? Is there any reason which would justify us in spending all this money on these societies which would not equally justify us in helping, say, the Imperial Bank, or half a dozen other private banks, to lend money at high rates?

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Why should Government make grants to the Lahore Municipality?

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : The case is certainly not on a par with what I am referring to. There is a complaint that co-operative societies are organisations which lend money in the interests of the bigger agriculturists and help them to swallow the lands of the poor agriculturists. (*Honourable Members.* No, no.).

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : In what way?

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Leaving aside the larger question whether the State ought not to run these societies on commercial lines or whether they ought to be spoon-fed like this all their lives, the question remains whether there is any justification for three deputy registrars?

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : That is different.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : Is there any justification for 20 assistant registrars and 150 inspectors? They are not responsible to anybody. These officers are not responsible to the societies, and the Government do not scrutinise their work with sufficient care. Jobs are being created by a benevolent Government. There is a cry for jobs everywhere—jobs for zamindars, jobs for non-zamindars and jobs for everybody at salaries disproportionate to their ability and the work they do or are expected to do. What justification is there that an inspector or a sub-inspector or a clerk in this department should get more pay than his *confréres* employed in the Imperial Bank or the Central Bank of India, or in the other Indian and foreign commerical houses.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Except in the case of the Industrial Surveyor.

Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri : More efficient men are employed by commerical organisations at a lower rate of pay. If retrenchment is needed anywhere it is in this department. In my opinion, it should be retrenched *in toto*, or, at any rate, all the posts should be abolished except the posts of the Registrar and his establishment at the central office.

The time at my disposal is limited, but I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government to the feeling which exists among the Hindus in this province, namely, that they have no chance of representation on the district boards of the province. For municipal committees you have separate electorates and reservation of seats. But you

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have no such thing in district boards. In the towns where the Hindus can have some influence there is the safeguard for the minorities of separate electorates and reservation of seats; whereas in the districts where the Hindus are in a minority there is no such safeguard. I do not want to claim separate electorates or reservation of seats, but what I say is, whatever method you adopt you should adopt it for both the minorities wherever they be. Considering the conditions of the province I should say that joint electorates with reservation of seats is the best arrangement that can be proposed for all elected bodies whether local, provincial or central. Whatever system you adopt, adopt the same system for all, for municipal committees as well as for the district boards. There is no reason why, where the Hindus stand to lose, we should have joint electorates and no reservation and where there is a possibility of the Hindus gaining, there should be a system of separate electorates and reservation. I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government to this glaring anomaly. Will he remove this anomaly and will he have the courage to remove also the disparities which exist even according to the formula laid down by Sir Fazl-i-Husain in this respect? Sir Fazl-i-Husain proposed that the number of elected and nominated seats in municipalities and district boards should be according to a certain system. I should like the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government to give effect to that. In towns where that formula is not being given effect to, he should take immediate steps to increase the number of members of the communities who have not full representation according to the formula which has been accepted by the Punjab Government. He should also take adequate steps to see that the number of members of communities who are not properly represented in the district boards are increased and adequate measures adopted to secure that representation.

One word about education. The system of intermediate colleges is a failure. As the time at my disposal is almost over, I wish to emphasise in a few words that it is necessary that the Ministry of Education should take in hand the question of female education in this province. There should be no district in this province where there is not a girls' high school. If the financial stringency stands in the way of launching any scheme of educational development of girls, it is open to the Ministry to abolish these intermediate colleges and in those very places, in those backward districts to start girls' high schools. (*An honourable member*: Why not abolish the Government College at Lahore?) Yes, the Government colleges at Lahore and elsewhere may be abolished, if the Government cannot provide adequate funds for financing at least one girls' high school in each district.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Minister for Education): Sir, I have been much interested to hear the valuable criticisms made by honourable members on the departments in my charge. The honourable member from Mokhal, Sardar Habib Ullah, was pleased to suggest that the intermediate colleges should be abolished. I must confess I was extremely astonished to get a suggestion like that from the representative of the rural community; because these intermediate colleges were opened definitely with the object of providing educational facilities, facilities for higher education for the sons of zamindars who ordinarily are unable to send their sons

to Lahore and even if they come here to Lahore it is not easy for them to get admission in the Lahore Colleges. The advantages of these intermediate colleges are many. I need not detail them at great length. Better climate, more play grounds, cheap milk, cheap food, healthier surroundings, nearness of home and the boys being under the direct supervision of their parents, these are some of the advantages which cannot be ignored. (*An honourable member*: No cinemas.) Yes, no cinemas. I should have thought that instead of suggesting their abolition he should have suggested the opening of more intermediate colleges. Certainly I was extremely surprised at a suggestion like that being put forward by a representative of the rural people which really goes against their interests.

The honourable member for Hoshiarpur (Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit) was pleased to remark that intermediate colleges were opened for providing jobs for Muslim teachers by Sir Fazl-i-Husain. If the honourable member had taken trouble to look at the figures which are easily available in the reports published by Government, I am certain that he would not have put forward a criticism like the one advanced which has absolutely no basis. I will quote to him the figures which I have now in my hand. In the Punjab Educational Service teachers serving in the intermediate colleges, out of 36 there are only 12 Muslims and there are 18 Hindus. In the Provincial Educational Service, Anglo-Vernacular teachers in the intermediate colleges, out of 146 there are only 41 Muslims and 77 Hindus. I hope that he will now be fully satisfied after listening to these figures that the Minister who opened these colleges had no nefarious object in view and I can assure him that if the Honourable Minister had any nefarious ideas he would certainly have cleverly carried them out. For, he must credit my predecessor for being able enough to carry out his schemes. But these figures prove that there was no such idea in his mind. These intermediate colleges were opened solely in the interests of the public, in the interests of the rural population of this province.

There is one further fact I wish to bring to the notice of the honourable member and that is this : In the Hoshiarpur district which he represents, at the time when the Government was putting up the Government Intermediate College, his own community was putting up another intermediate college in the same place. If it is bad and wrong for Government to put up an intermediate college in a district, it is certainly more wrong for his community to put up a communal college where nothing but a communal tinge is likely to be imparted to students. The first thing for him is to go back and see that the private college is abolished before he comes forward with a criticism such as the one he has now advanced.

Another criticism that he put forward was that schools were provincialised in order to help the Muslim teachers. He little realised that only those schools were provincialised which were local body schools, and that the schools that were provincialised had their teachers already and the poor Minister had no chance to recruit new people. His criticism was really based on lack of information. I am certain, if the honourable member had got the information before him, he would not have put forward the criticism that he did.

Another criticism that he put forward was that he was against the inspectorates. Why ? Because the inspectors unnecessarily interfered

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with private schools and worried them. I am extremely surprised to hear that criticism, because one of the managers of a private school came to me during my short term of office as Education Minister and said " Please give recognition to my school. I do not want money. I only want to have the privilege of my school being inspected by the inspecting staff. Because inspection much improves the standard of education in schools." Now here is an honourable member who comes forward with a proposal for the abolition of the inspectorate.

Another honourable member suggested that the Medical School at Amritsar should be abolished. There is a good deal of force behind that suggestion. I agree that as far as medical education is concerned, there ought to be one standard, that is the medical graduates, and this is the case in all European countries also. The ideal position for us to achieve in this province is also to have one medical standard, that is the medical graduates and not the medical licentiates that we are producing at Amritsar. But when we achieve that ideal I have no doubt that that school will eventually be abolished. I have gone into that case myself because I myself hold the view that was advanced by the honourable member. I have investigated the case fully and I feel that the time has not yet arrived to abolish the school, because these sub-assistant surgeons cannot yet be replaced by the medical graduates of the Medical College. I need not go into further details.

The same honourable member suggested that there should be no multiple dispensaries. I have already gone into that question two or three times before and I also hold exactly the same view. But I may assure the honourable member that the canal dispensaries which are really in charge of the Honourable Revenue Member exist only in those places where the services of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and district board dispensaries, cannot be made available to workers in the Irrigation Branch. It is not right that the workers in the Irrigation Branch when they fall ill should be left unlooked after.

There was a suggestion that the constitution of the Text-Book Committee required looking into. I certainly agree with him. The matter is already receiving my careful consideration. I was very glad to listen to the criticism advanced by Dr. (Mrs.) Shave with regard to health matters, and particularly with regard to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Lahore, which I had the privilege of seeing myself as Minister two years ago. I personally had the same views as Mrs. Shave that the surroundings of that hospital are certainly not healthy. I saw the slaughter house where thousands of vultures and kites were present and all the manure were gathered in that neighbourhood. I certainly think it is undesirable that such a place should have been selected for the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Now that the hospital is there, I think the only thing to do is to ask the Lahore Municipality to remove the slaughter house from there and to keep the surroundings of the hospital clean and healthy.

I welcome the suggestion of the honourable member who is not now in his seat that more attention should be paid to female education. I am at one with him in thinking that our province will not advance if we devote our attention to the education of boys and not to the education of girls. The education of one boy means the education of only one boy. But the

education of a girl means the education of a whole family. The House can rest assured that as far as funds permit I shall do my best to advance the cause of female education.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : Sir, I shall be very brief indeed. Two or three points have been touched upon by the various speakers which pertain to my department. One is the complaint, a long standing one, of insufficiency of Hindu representation in the district boards. On that point I can only say that the matter is receiving my careful consideration, but I cannot dismiss the members of other communities from the district boards and replace them by Hindus. There may be other places where the non-Hindu representation is below the mark and unless I take into consideration all the district boards and hit upon some principle which would secure to each community proper and adequate representation I cannot act piecemeal and disturb the present proportions of the district boards. The grievance, I appreciate, is a long standing one, but it cannot be removed in a day. I must act upon some method, and unless some speedy method is suggested by the members who have offered the criticism on this point, I have only to wait until some solution suggests itself to me. One thing I can say with confidence that in adjusting any inequalities it will be my sacred duty not to infringe upon the rights of other communities. I would not dream of doing any injustice to any community, not for any consideration whatsoever.

Lala Mukand Lal, Puri, made a suggestion that separate representation should be introduced in the district boards. That is again a very large question. The tendency of the times is to do away with separate representation and separate electorates. Personally I hate all wrangles as to representation of the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs on various bodies, and it is a misfortune that such questions have to be dealt with. If I had sufficient power of persuasion, some inspiration which will help me, I would hypnotise all the communities into forgetting these communal considerations, and if I can beat all these various communities into one united homogeneous whole I would certainly do so at once. But until that time comes there is no help but to go into this question and to remove the grievance so far as it is possible to do so under the present circumstances.

5 P.M.

Then another question that touched my department was the Hydro-Electric Department. Well this is, so far as I am concerned, rather a delicate subject (*laughter*). Honourable members are aware that I have been one of its most uncompromising critics and it may be described as an irony of fate that I am here now in charge of this Department and required to defend it. All that I can say is that barring the question which touches the origin of this scheme and considering the project at its present stage of advance, all that I can say is that criticism now will serve no useful purpose.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Why ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Even if we assume that a mistake was made and no one here has offered any criticism bringing out more points than I did in my criticism of this scheme, assuming that everything I said was correct and assuming that everything that has been

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now said is correct, I think it would a sheer waste of time to make any criticism of this scheme if the object is to discourage the scheme. If the object is to effect economy or to bring about greater despatch that criticism would be welcome. I do not know if my honourable friend over there ever read Merchant of Venice. If he ever read it he would remember how Bassanio when he was in search of a bride and also in search of wealth went to a money-lender and asked for a loan of money and when he was advised not to take the risk because he had already impoverished himself, he said when we were little boys we used to shoot an arrow and when we could not find it what we used to do was to shoot another arrow in the same direction and it was very often the case that we found both the first and the second.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Gambler's spirit.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is not the gambler's spirit. It is just in the fitness of things that when you have gone so far as to find it more difficult to recede than to go further then the best thing is to go further. I can assure honourable members who have criticised this scheme that a glance at the progress made by the project at Jogendranagar and Brot would probably make them think that now the time for criticism was over and the present condition of the project required that every encouragement should be afforded to it. I do not want to go into greater details because I find that the matter is going to be brought into discussion at the time of the Budget demands and I would, therefore, go into greater details if necessary when this amendment is moved for cuts or any opposition to the demand on behalf of this project is made. For the present I think all that I have said would be sufficient. All that I can say in connection with it is this that I personally now have no doubts as to the success of the scheme. Leaving aside monetary considerations the scheme is going to be a success and once it is a success certainly it would lead to the progress of industry in this province and people who find steam engines and other such contrivances beyond their means would find it then possible to set up small industries in the countryside and the industrial development would receive a great impetus.

Mian Nurullah : What would be the cost per unit of power.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is very difficult to predict but I expect that it would be cheaper than the rates at which power is now being supplied by the existing electric supply companies.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : What would be the return on capital ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : We should discuss it when the time comes (*laughter*).

Sardar Sampuran Singh (Lyallpur, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I take the opportunity of thanking the Honourable Finance Member and the Finance Secretaries both the present and his predecessor Mr. Penny who has left, for the trouble and the pains they have taken to put a balanced Budget before us, and I as well congratulate them for being successful in putting that budget before us in bright colours. I who happen to know the other side of the picture as well, cannot be satisfied with the figures as they appear on the paper—correct though they are. The estimate of the receipts though

it may look very substantial and possibly we can base our hopes and can depend upon our expenditure on these figures, still when I look before me the condition of those people who have to pay all that amount I feel the affairs are not so satisfactory. We have seen the failures of several crops and we have seen the fall in prices. All these bad years either on account of the failure of crops or fall in prices have reduced the peasant into such a low condition that we feel to-day that it will be really a very difficult and hard task for him to pay the Government revenue at the coming *rabi*. The Honourable Minister for Agriculture has tried to put a philosophic view on the situation and has suggested that the plenty of grain and the healthy life of people is all what we want as a wealth in the country. I cannot agree with him specially as I know that in this country all the expenses have to be met by cash and not in kind. The Government revenue has to be paid in money and in silver and not in grain. The peasant has to sell his grain and if by selling the whole he cannot get sufficient to pay his dues naturally the consequence will be that he has no grain left with him. There may be plenty of grain in the country but if the poor peasant has not enough to eat it is the worst year for him. On the other hand the condition of these people will be better if they had less of grain but plenty of money by selling a part of it but not by selling the whole of it. Another difficulty with him is that the peasant is heavily indebted, and there are several causes for it. The chief one was his natural desire for making more landed property and he judged his position according to the prices of agricultural commodities which prevailed before he entered into these transactions. He went on buying Government waste lands and for that he incurred heavy debts from individuals and became a debtor to the Government. The interest has gone up ; the property which he bought has gone down in price and he is to-day practically a broken man, and with these low prices he has yet to pay these heavy debts. He has already in some cases sold and sometimes mortgaged his property in his old district and has gone and actually bought land in the new colonies ; the old one is being sold and he cannot keep the new property on account of these heavy debts ; and with these rates he has no prospect before him of getting out of these transactions into which he blindly and without judging the situation entered.

Now, Sir, another thing which places him in a very wrong position is that he has made that property by paying very large price to the Government and so far he has not been able to earn anything out of it and he has lost what he had and in his present position he does not get any remission even for the interest which he pays for the capital invested in that property. In the case of income-tax, if a person has invested money by raising a loan, when assessing income-tax authorities always exclude from the profits the sum which the man has paid as interest on the money invested in that business ; but it is really the hard lot of the agriculturist that when he raises loans for business of agriculture he is assessed fully without any regard to the interest which he is paying for the money which he has invested in the industry, and sometime that interest is really more than what he is actually getting out of that property. These are very hard conditions and it really looks very strange that these things should be brought to the notice of the Government to-day, but there they are and if they are seen from a bigger angle of vision and really from the principles of equity and justice,

[Sardar Sampuran Singh.]

I think there is no reason why zamindars should not get benefit and it should not be declared that he is not making any profit out of these properties and that he is actually paying more in the way of interest than he is getting out of them. One word, Sir, about these prices. There is no doubt that so far as this House is concerned nobody has said the prices are likely to rise in a short time. The chief reason of this fall so far as my little knowledge goes ist his that the production of these agricultural commodities has increased tremendously in the world and the production is so high that all the markets are more or less glutted and there is no buyer. That excessiveness in production is on account of the use of machinery in European countries and also on account of large areas having been brought under agriculture. So far as we can see there is no reason why these areas should diminish and there is also no ordinary reason for us to presume that the use of machinery will get less and consequently there is no ordinary likelihood of the prices rising. Our only hope is that when the European countries find agriculture not so paying as to keep them at their high standards of living, they may give up cultivation leaving for poor countries like ours to make a little margin out of agriculture. But just at present as the situation is there is not much hope for several years to come that the prices will rise and there will be once again plenty in this country. With the huge burden of debt already weighing on the zamindar the prospect before him is really gloomy. It is, therefore, time that the Government makes some radical alterations in the revenue system. We have waited sufficiently long not to rely any further on the policy of wait and see. It is an economic warfare in which we find ourselves at present and to successfully emerge out of this struggle into better times it is absolutely necessary that we must cast off our faith in the old policy of wait and see, get out of time-worn ruts and make an earnest effort at greater retrenchment in the expenses of the Government and add to the resources of the province.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: Sir, I should like to very briefly reply to the criticism levelled against the departments in my charge, although I find that most of the critics are now absent from the House—I do not blame them for it, because after hearing the speeches of non-official members continuously for full two days, they are naturally fed up, and prefer the comparatively peaceful atmosphere of the lobbies, or better still return to their homes after having had their say. But I must say that it is not fair that the critics should be absent from their seats, when their criticisms are being replied to.

I will first take up land revenue. I must confess that I was most disagreeably surprised to find the honourable member from Rohtak make a vehement attack against the policy of Government with regard to remissions. While I realise that as leader of the rural party perhaps he would be justified in ever asking for and getting something, and pressing for more, I, however, think that the criticism is not only unjust to Government but also unfair to his party, because I know that there are several zamindar members of his party who will concede that Government has never been found wanting in rendering aid and relief to zamindars whenever they have needed it. In making his remarks I believe he forgot the vast amounts which have been

remitted during the past few years, and though I cannot give him the exact figure at the moment I believe that the remissions granted during the past three or four years, when added, will amount to considerably more than a crore. Under the circumstances his remarks that Government has been very illiberal and ungenerous are neither fair nor correct. He referred to the amount of remissions in Gurgaon. But he again forgot that remissions take place not only for reasons of calamities like floods and famines but are also given under the ordinary rules for remissions and suspensions, under which a large amount is annually suspended a portion of which has to be written off eventually by way of remissions. No less than Rs. 10 lakhs were suspended in Gurgaon in two harvests, that of *kharif* 1928 and of *rabi* 1929.

(*At this stage Mr. President left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy President.*)

And if we were to take six harvests for the past three years the amount of suspensions and remissions would be considerably more. Liberal remissions and suspensions were made during the past few years as conditions in Gurgaon and in the south-east of the province, from the agricultural point of view, have been unsatisfactory. The honourable member, Raja Narendra Nath also drew the attention of the Government to the condition of poor districts like Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh and suggested that we should be liberal in granting remissions to them. I can assure the honourable member that Government has already given large remissions to these two districts. Very considerable outstandings are still due from agriculturists in Dera Ghazi Khan district, but if need be, Government will continue its liberal policy of helping by remissions and suspensions, not only Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh but every other district of the province, which needs assistance.

The honourable member from Amritsar criticising our policy of colonisation remarked that it would have been much better if we had sold all the lands in the colonies and not given them away in the way of grants. I might for his information point out that all grants whether made to the gentry or to poor peasants carry some sort of liability with them, and even the poor peasant-grantee has to pay a *malikana* which in the case of the latest grants, in Nili Bar, amounts to Rs. 3 an acre, on the whole area granted. I hope I have made it clear that we are not giving away our lands to zamindars for nothing, but that we are getting a fair return from them. The honourable member also referred to election rules and asked Government to make rules with regard to the marking of ballot papers more liberal. I think he must have forgotten that this point was raised in the Council some time ago and Government issued revised instructions and rules last year which allow the agent of a candidate to sit by the marking officer and see how the ballot papers of illiterate voters are marked by him. This means that every candidate or his agent can of right see how an illiterate voter is voting. The same honourable member also said that corruption was rife among voters and that rules should be framed to check bribery and corruption. I am afraid that it is impossible to stop this by rules and regulations. The law is there. But it is only by sheer force of public opinion that this evil can be eradicated, and I hope honourable members will try to create

[Hon. Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]
that public opinion so that it will be impossible for voters or any one connected with elections to indulge in these nefarious practices. The honourable member also made vague and serious allegations against officials and accused them of taking sides at elections. I am not aware if he made any formal complaint about this matter but I believe he did not, because if he had, it would have come to the notice of the authorities concerned and the Government. A member of this Council should not forget his sense of responsibility, and, I submit, must carefully weigh his words— before making vague allegations and irresponsible statements which cannot be proved. I am sure, that if he had any proof in support of his allegations, he would not have spared the officials whom he seeks to denounce, now, in this House.

With regard to canals, the honourable member from Rohtak has criticised our administration by citing certain figures about working expenses, and by trying to prove that these had increased, during the last 20 years disproportionately, without securing an equivalent or proportionate increase in the receipts. I think that it is possible to explain this phenomenon, I mean the increase in working expenses during the last 20 years and the disparity between working expenses and receipts now as compared with the figures of twenty years ago. You are aware, that in the beginning, when we took up our older canals, we began with the cheapest ; for instance the Lower Chenab Canal cost us about Rs. 17 per acre annually irrigated. The Lower Jhelum Canal which was built later cost us about Rs. 22 per acre. Later on the triple canals were made and the expenditure rose to Rs. 70 per acre, and in the case of Sutlej Valley Project, which has cost us a considerable amount of money, the cost per acre would work out at a much higher figure when the scheme is completed. The interest charges also are, naturally higher on the canals more recently built than those built in the nineties. Again, the wages of labour have gone up considerably as compared with those prevailing twenty years or more ago. They have been steadily going up and therefore the cost on maintenance and repairs has also gone up proportionately. Again, with regard to establishment the higher scale of salaries has greatly added to the expenditure. This increase in salary was not given to irrigation subordinates or officers only but in all departments, and has contributed towards swelling the expenditure on maintenance and repairs. If we take into consideration the higher rates of interest which we have to pay on the capital spent on the more recently built canals, and the increase in wages and salaries, it will be found that the working expenses are not after all so very disproportionate to income as the honourable member wanted to make out. The honourable member, for Lahore, I believe under a misapprehension, said that we had recruited a large number of engineers during this year and last year, while we had, on the other hand, given notice to a certain number of temporary engineers this year. I should like to explain to him that our reason for recruiting last year was to fill vacancies in the Provincial Engineering Service, as the policy of the Government is to absorb all efficient and suitable officers among the temporary engineers into the permanent cadre of the Provincial Engineering Service and to do away with the temporary cadre altogether. He would also, no doubt, realise that as work comes to a completion on

the Sutlej Valley Project we will have to reduce more officers, and the temporary officers will have to go first. Does he want that we should send away permanent officers, and have the temporary engineers untouched. Our provincial service cadre was under strength last year, and therefore we took a certain number of officers from the temporary cadre into the provincial cadre, and also recruited some men direct to the Provincial Service of Engineers. Another member sitting behind him made a strong plea for a reduction of the number of posts in the department. But as he is aware, since we gave notice to these temporary engineers we have been receiving complaints and representations not from one or two members of the House but practically from every zamindar member and also other members of this House. All of them have urged that we should withdraw these notices, as it is very hard on these officers who have been in service for 4, 5 or 6 years to be sent away now.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Some 18 years.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : As I have pointed out you cannot have it both ways. So far as I am concerned I can assure honourable members that these officers have my fullest sympathy. But these officers have been served with notices not merely as a measure of economy, but also because their services are no longer required. Now that our construction works are coming to a close we do not require the same number of officers, and I am afraid more will have to go when the work on Sutlej Valley Project is completed.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Start the Bakra Dam.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I am coming to that in a minute.

I must thank the honourable member for Lahore for having said a good word about Forests. I am gratified to see that honourable members are now taking a real interest in the Forest problem after hearing the lecture by Mr. Holland. I hope they will support the Government in all reasonable measures which it may be necessary to adopt for coping with the dual menace of denudation and erosion.

Reference was made to the Bakra Dam Scheme. I can assure honourable members that Government is doing its best to proceed with the project, but they must realise that we have not only to prepare a detailed scheme and estimates of the project but we have also to negotiate with others who are interested in the scheme. We have to consult the Indian States before we can proceed further. As you are aware the report of the Superintending Engineers appointed by this Government and the Bombay Government was received in December last. The report is, so far as we are concerned, a favourable report. But it has still to be finally considered by the Indus Discharge Committee, which will meet, probably, in autumn of this year. In the meantime we are not sitting idle. We are trying to get into touch with the Indian States so as to get on with the scheme as soon as the preliminary negotiations are over. Finally I wish to assure the House that this Government will not brook any unnecessary delay in the matter.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member): I should like to begin by expressing my grateful thanks for the appreciative terms in which most of the speakers to-day and yesterday have referred to my maiden effort as a budget maker and to the compliments which they have paid to Mr. Puckle, who deserves them far more than I do, for his excellent memorandum on the budget. I should like in this connection to remind the House that its thanks are also due to Mr. Grindal, who works behind the scenes and who is the workman who first puts the budget into the shape in which it eventually emerges and is presented to the Council. I take it that the appreciative terms in which honourable members have referred to the budget signify very largely their relief that what I eventually presented to them was perhaps not any worse, in fact I hope it was a little better, than they expected. But I hope that I may take it that the House recognises that the budget is at any rate an absolutely open and true statement of our position and that I have attempted to conceal or minimise nothing. I hope also that I am justified in inferring from the tone of the debate that the House does appreciate the steps taken by Government in the direction of enforcing economy, steps which have had at any rate this merit that we are able to present to the House a balanced budget for the year that is to come. We are thus in a considerably more fortunate position than most of the provinces of India.

Sir, I will confine my remarks to a few points that have been raised by speakers in this debate—either purely financial questions or questions on administrative points concerned with the departments in my charge. I will begin with the honourable member for Lahore, Sardar Habibullah. A good many of his points such as for example, the criticism that the estimates of revenue are too optimistic and the estimate of extraordinary receipts is too high, that we should not use the extraordinary receipts to come to the rescue of the revenue account,—these points have been answered by Mr. Puckle. The honourable member suggested as one possible means of economy a saving in the various allowances drawn by various classes of Government servants; that is a suggestion which Government has already taken up. These allowances are now being scrutinised. I am not sure, however, that the saving will be as large as the honourable member supposes, as a good many of these allowances are allowances which will be very difficult to curtail. For instance there are special allowances given to a very large number of comparatively low-paid Government servants who have to live in Lahore and one or two other expensive places. There are also allowances, the aggregate amount of which comes to a good deal, for service in hill stations. Service in hill stations is extremely unpopular with most classes of Government servants and even with these allowances it is often difficult enough to secure a sufficient number to man the posts in hill stations. These are only one or two examples. However, as I have said these allowances are already being scrutinised.

A somewhat general charge was brought by the honourable member from Lahore. I forget the exact words he used, but according to the reports in the newspapers this morning he implied, or at any rate he said the people feel, that an excessive portion of the revenue and the taxes collected from the people is spent on supporting what he described as a top heavy administration but not in affording benefits to the people themselves. I do not think that is altogether a fair way of putting it, nor do I think it is really a true

charge. If the honourable member will bear with me for a moment I would like to point out the very great extent to which expenditure on the nation building or beneficent departments has risen since the introduction of the Reforms, although the general revenues of the province have not risen to any very marked extent. It is true in the first year of the Reforms our income was under nine crores. I think ever since then it has been over ten crores and at present it is near about 11 crores. In the first year of the Reforms, 1921-22, the Department of Education cost Rs. 88,00,000 ; that figure has risen to Rs. 1,76,00,000. Exactly double. Public Health has more than doubled ; it has risen from Rs. 10.7 lakhs to Rs. 24.7 lakhs.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : That only shows that formerly they were being starved entirely.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The honourable member may be perfectly correct. I am only saying that in ten years the expenditure on these departments has more than doubled. Whether they were entirely starved before is not really relevant. My acquaintance with the province is fairly long and extends to more than 20 years before the Reforms. I think at any rate the province did carry on even in those days.

Medical has risen from Rs. 31 lakhs or Rs. 32 lakhs to over Rs. 52 lakhs ; Agriculture has risen from 32 lakhs to 60 lakhs and Industries from 6 lakhs to over 11 lakhs. Another way of looking at it is to consider how much of the general revenue of the province is absorbed by these departments. When the Reforms first started, in 1921-22, the beneficent departments spent only 15 per cent. of the total expenditure. That was only half of what the civil administration cost. In 1931-32, the year to which the budget relates, the beneficent departments will receive 30 per cent. that is, almost exactly the same as the civil administration will cost, or very slightly less of the total expenditure. The beneficent departments take 30 per cent., the civil works 13 per cent. and the civil administration 31 per cent. While the expenditure on Civil Administration has risen by only 3 per cent. since the Reforms, expenditure on beneficent departments has doubled, that is, increased by 100 per cent. I think, Sir, those figures show that it is unfair to say that a very large portion of the revenue collected is spent on a top heavy administration. The proportion has certainly dropped.

I would pass on to the observations of my honourable friend Rajā Narendra Nath. He made one point to which I would like to refer when he asked me to cut down the expenditure on police as soon as that is possible. He may be quite sure that I will certainly do that. But I cannot undertake that we will at one sweep of the pen reduce the entire force of additional police. That would be at the moment premature, in fact it would be an act of absolute folly so long as this menace of terrorism hangs over us. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram also referred to the police and ventured on a rather rash remark that the danger for which the additional police was recruited has entirely passed. I cannot agree with him. A large part of the additional police is employed in dealing with the menace of terrorists. I wish I could share his optimism that that danger has entirely passed.

The same honourable member referred to the steady growth of expenditure on police. He alleged that at the time when the Reforms started the

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total expenditure on the police was under a crore of rupees. That is not correct. The expenditure on police in the first year of the Reforms was one crore and four lakhs. The budget for next year provides for one crore and twenty-three lakhs. So the rise is not nearly as much as the honourable member suggested. The big increase began about the year 1928-29. Up till that year the increase was very small. In 1927-28 the total expenditure was only a crore and six lakhs whereas in the first year of the Reforms it was as I have said, a crore and four lakhs. After 1927-28 honourable members will remember that a special committee, which I think included several honourable members of this House, under the presidency of Mr. Lumsden went into the whole question of the organisation, pay and strength of the police force, and as a result of that committee's report considerable additions were made to the strength of the force. Some of the recommendations of the committee have not yet been given effect to, but additions were made to the pay of the lower ranks of the force, some new police stations were established and a fairly extensive provision had to be made for dealing with the great increase of motor traffic in large towns. Those are really the reasons which have led to an increase in the strength of the police. We have proceeded only gradually in carrying out the recommendations of the Lumsden Committee. In fact a good deal still remains to be done to give full effect to their recommendations. Some reforms I have reluctantly postponed this year on account of the necessity for general economy all round.

The honourable member for Lyallpur put forward the somewhat astounding proposition that Government should never take loans, if I understood him aright. All I can say is that if Government is never to borrow for any form of expenditure, even for productive expenditure, the honourable member will see the Bhakra Dam Project, in which he is so interested, recede further and further into the background. In fact, it is quite certain that it would never reach maturity at all. We can only finance these great productive projects on borrowed money, and so long as we are assured of a return, the process is perfectly legitimate and one that is done every day by every joint stock company which starts a new industrial venture.

My honourable friend, Mian Nurullah, in a speech of great suggestive interest mentioned that since 1921 there has been a great increase in the number of posts in the administration but a loss of efficiency, and that our object should be to reduce the number of posts and to increase efficiency. As an ideal policy I agree. I do not deny that there has been a great increase in the number of posts since the introduction of Reforms. The administration in every branch, and especially the centre, has of course, become infinitely more complex and in some ways more cumbersome, certainly demanding a larger central secretariat. I also think it would be idle to deny that as compared with 20 or even 15 years ago the administrative machine has lost some of its efficiency. I do not deny that. A very large number of able officers have retired prematurely and I think, generally speaking, it would not be wrong to assert that their successors have not perhaps the same highly developed administrative technique. But honourable members must recognise that there has been a very great increase in the work that has to be done by Government, and I think it will also recognise that although there has been a large multiplication of posts at headquarters, there has, broadly

speaking, been very little multiplication of posts in the districts except of course in the case of the beneficent departments whose activities have been so greatly developed. On the reserved side of Government I should say the increase in the districts is almost negligible. I may remind the honourable gentleman as an example of the increase of work that to-day's question paper contains at least six pages of his own questions. These alone take a great deal of time to prepare the answers.

I was particularly glad to see that the honourable member for Rohtak, who is generally a vigilant and perhaps somewhat caustic critic of Government, had the goodness to observe that the Budget was on the whole fairly satisfactory. The honourable member who spoke after him, Malak Muhammad Din, was quite hopeful about the future. The honourable member from Sialkot was also one of the optimists. I have reserved to the last the honourable member from Hoshiarpur who I am sorry to see is a confirmed pessimist. He described the province as rapidly approaching bankruptcy. I wish that even if the honourable member feels so pessimistic, he could have kept it to himself. Because I think it unfortunate, if you feel as pessimistic as that, to give expression to it. Personally I do not share that view at all. I think we are going through a time when rigid economy will be necessary. But our general financial position seems to me, on a wide survey, to be fairly sound. I do not deny that we have gone ahead a little bit too quickly in the past. We started the period of Reforms with three bad years in which we learnt stern lessons of economy, and then came a period of exceptional prosperity culminating in the absolutely record year 1925-26. (*An honourable member*: And reckless expenditure.) You cannot blame Government for that, because this Council was very largely responsible for going ahead rapidly with great schemes of development. In a few years under the brilliant organising genius of Sir Malcolm Hailey and spurred on, or at any rate with the full approval of this Council, the Punjab saw a wonderful development in communications, in roads, schools, hospitals, dispensaries, veterinary hospitals and so on. We did spend freely perhaps in the hope that this period of prosperity was going on for ever and without much thought for the future. I, for one, do not regret that, and I do not think, if you take them as a whole, that the people of the Punjab regret it. We have during that period done something appreciably to raise the standard of comfort in rural areas. There are now few places which you cannot get fairly close to on a good road. There are in most villages schools of some sort and even high schools within easy reach. There are very few places where there are no dispensaries or hospitals, where if a man falls ill or his horse or bullock falls ill he cannot get early medical relief. That is a great achievement and I do claim for it this result, that during this recent period of unrest when several provinces in India have been convulsed with constant disturbance and constant disorders, when their finances have suffered, and there has been widespread refusal to pay taxes and so on, the Punjab countryside has except for a few isolated places been absolutely in quiet and unaffected (*hear, hear*). We know for instance that the great bulk of the Indian army—and after all the Indian army is only the Punjab peasant in another form—has been absolutely loyal ; and we have had no refusal or practically no refusal anywhere in the Punjab to pay up the land revenue. (*Hear, hear*). I know that the revenue was paid sometimes at very great sacrifice, that people

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had to sell their jewellery and even their cattle to pay up the land revenue. But they have on the whole paid promptly and paid willingly. (*Hear hear*). I believe that that spirit is due in part to the wise policy which was followed by the Punjab Government and by this Council in our years of prosperity. That policy has thus contributed in a very large measure to help us through the times of depression through which we have gone and in which we are still involved.

No, Sir, I refuse to be pessimistic about the future. I only ask the honourable member to remember that, as another honourable member of this House pointed out the other day, India is at any rate in a comparatively fortunate position as compared with other countries of the world. I may pursue that analogy by saying that the Punjab is at any rate in a comparatively fortunate position as compared with other provinces in India. (*Cheers*).

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Monday, 9th March 1931.

423 PLC—600—1-4-31—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, 9th March 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Warashikni in Chak No. 70-J. B. (Lyallpur).

***272. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in Chak No. 70-J. B. (Lyallpur) a case of *warashikni* occurred in 1930, in which the turn was increased from four *pehers* per square to 96 *pehers* ;

(*b*) whether this case was reported to the Divisional Canal Officer, Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police ; and if so, with what result ;

(*c*) after how long and by which officer this case was decided and with what result ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No. (*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Standing Committees of Council.

***273. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state the number of meetings (separately in each case) of the various Standing Committees of the Council held in each financial year up to date since the formation of the first reformed Council ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of meetings held by the Standing Committees of the Punjab Legislative Council.

Name of Standing Committee.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Standing Committee on—										
Jails	*Nil*	2	1	2	*Nil.*	1	1	2	1	None so far.
Police	2	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	Ditto.
Excise	*Nil*	2	1	1	1	*Nil*	2	*Nil*	1	Ditto.
Land Revenue	*Nil*	1	*Nil*	1	1	*Nil*	1	1	1	1
Agriculture	No Information available				3	*Nil*	*Nil*	2	1	1
Co-operation	No Information available				*Nil*	*Nil*	2	*Nil*	1	1
Canals	1	2	2	2	4	*Nil*	1	1	1	1
Industries	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	1	3	*Nil*	2	*Nil*	4	None so far.
Finance	11	10	7	8	7	5	4	5	7	2
Education	2	2	1	4	2	*Nil*	2	4	*Nil*	2
Public Health	*Nil*	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	*Nil*	2
Local Self-Government ...	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	6	4	4

TEMPORARY LEASES IN LYALLPUR.

***274. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of squares under temporary cultivation in the Lyallpur district ;

(*b*) what was the average rate per square on which they were given on lease ;

(*c*) by what percentage the prices of agricultural produce has gone down since they were let ;

(*d*) whether the Government is prepared to reduce the rate on which land was leased out ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The number of squares cannot be given ; the area, however, is approximately 46,800 acres.

(*b*) The average rent was about Rs. 13-13-0 per acre.

(*c*) As the lands were leased at different times, it is not possible to state the percentage required, but the fall in prices is considerable.

(*d*) In future all such lands are being leased by tenders, so that the tenderer will himself fix the rent he is willing to pay ;

AUCTION OF CROPS IN NILI BAR COLONY.

***275. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the Nili Bar Colony when land is confiscated for non-payment of the instalment price, standing crops are attached and the proprietor's share of these crops is auctioned ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that in such cases the land revenue and *abiana* in respect of the auctioned land is realised from the purchaser of the land ;

(*c*) whether the rules on the subject warrant such a practice and whether the purchaser of the land is given any share in the auction-money of the standing crops ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) First part—yes ; second part—any surplus left after meeting the arrears would be given to the purchaser of the land.

CANAL ROAD FROM JHANG TO CHINIOT AND LYALLPUR.

***276. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether there is only one canal road from Jhang to Chiniot and Jhang to Lyallpur and beyond ;

(*b*) whether a Budh crosses the Jhang branch of the Lower Chenab Canal about half-a-mile above the Jaura Canal rest-house ;

[Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.]

(c) whether this Budh is generally unfordable in the rainy season and as a result the motoring public is put to considerable inconvenience;

(d) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what steps the Government intends to take in the matter?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (a) There are direct district roads from Jhang to Chiniot and Lyallpur. There are two alternative circuitous roads from Jhang to Chiniot or Lyallpur *viâ* canal roads, one of which is *via* Jaura rest-house.

(b) Yes.

(c) This crossing is impassable for short periods after rain. The motoring public has no access to this road except under special permit.

(d) No action is proposed in the matter.

***277.** *Cancelled.*

REMISSION ON COTTON AND RICE CROPS.

***278. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(a) whether it has been brought to his notice that the zamindars are not satisfied with the remission recently made by Government in the land revenue and *abiana* for the cotton and rice crops;

(b) why, with the exception of Rohtak district, no remission has been made in the land revenue and *abiana* for the sugarcane and other crops in the province;

(c) what steps, if any, the Government intends to take in the matter?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (a) No; so far as Government is aware except for a few individual cases, the concession has evoked general satisfaction amongst zamindars.

(b) Special treatment was accorded to Rohtak because the damage caused in that district to *nahri* sugarcane generally by the Pyrilla insect was serious. No such damage was reported from other districts.

(c) Does not arise.

SHAIKH RAHMAT ELLAHI, MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, RUPAR.

***279. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation by the Municipal Committee, Rupar, was made to the Commissioner, Ambala division, for the removal of Shaikh Rahmat Ellahi, Municipal Commissioner, Rupar, under section 16 of the Punjab Municipal Act, Parts A and B;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Committee, Rupar, passed a resolution in the first week of October 1930, to the above effect;

(c) whether it is a fact that Shaikh Rahmat Ellahi was a contractor of Patiala Durbar Railway at Rupar and he was also a Senior Vice-President of the Municipal Committee, Rupar, in those days;

(d) whether it is a fact that he imported, as contractor, certain materials and paid no octroi duty to the Committee;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Committee filed complaints against Shaikh Rahmat Ellahi and his brothers for certain acts of non-payments of octroi duty, etc.;

(f) whether it is a fact that such cases are decided by the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala in favour of Municipal Committee, Rupar, and some cases are pending since long time in the court of the 1st class Magistrate at Rupar;

(g) if the answers to the above questions are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister be pleased to lay the copies of the following:—

(i) a list of pending cases, Municipal Committee, Rupar, *versus* Shaikh Rahmat Ellahi and his brothers, date of filing of the cases, dates with places of hearing of the cases; name of the magistrate and reason of delay in disposal;

(ii) copies of the orders of the Commissioner, Ambala division, of the Government, on the question of removal of Shaikh Rahmat Ellahi, Municipal Commissioner, or intention of the Commissioner or Government with regard to the above?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: It is regretted that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

CLERK, GOVERNMENT MIDDLE AND NORMAL SCHOOL, SHAHPUR SADR.

***280. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of clerk in the Government Middle and Normal School, Shahpur Sadr, was created in 1929;

(b) whether it is a fact that a new Hindu candidate was appointed to the vacancy;

(c) whether the new candidate thus appointed had received any training in the post-matriculation class?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: (a) A post was attached to the institution with effect from the 2nd January, 1930.

(b) The Hindu candidate appointed had served for two years as an apprentice.

(c) No.

SCIENCE MASTER, GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, MIANWALI.

***281. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether the post of Science Master in the Government High School, Mianwali, fell vacant last year ;

(*b*) if so, who has been appointed to the vacancy ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Lala Harbans Lal, M.Sc., B.T.

NUMBERDARS AND TREASURY OFFICIALS.

***282. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that each numberdar when he comes to pay the land revenue and other Government dues into the treasury has to part with generally a sum of Rs. 6, that is, a rupee each to *wasalbaqi nawis*, *siyah nawis*, *khazanchi*, jamadar, chaprasi and patwari ;

(*b*) if the answer to above is in the negative, whether the Government has ever made any inquiries into it ;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action the Government is prepared to take ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that if a numberdar is slack in parting with his money the receipt of his money into the treasury is delayed and he has to face the risk of losing money by putting up at some *sarai* or *zailghar* or a hotel ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Government is not aware of the alleged malpractice, but will be glad to take notice of any instances that the honourable member brings to light.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

CHAK NO. 231, NILI BAR.

***283. Risaldar Bahadur Khan Sahib Nur Khan :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether any sub-committee was formed to go into the question of irrigation of auctioned lands in Chak No. 231, Nili Bar ?

(*b*) If so, will he kindly lay on the table the proceedings and the findings of the sub-committee ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

***284.** *Cancelled.*

LOWER GUGERA CANAL.

***285. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) for how many days during the last *rabi* sowing season the Lower Gugera Canal ran according to the full supply gauge at Bhagat Canal rest-house ;

(*b*) what were the daily gauges at Bhagat from 1st October 1930, to 15th December 1930 ;

(*c*) what was the sanctioned daily gauge for that period ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Lower Gugera ran according to full supply gauge at Bhagat for—

31 days during October.
17 days during November.
21 days during December.
18 days during January.
25 days during February up to 25th.

(*b*) Daily gauges of Lower Gugera at Bhagat from 1st October to 15th December are given below—

October.		*November.*		*December.*	
1st	.. 8.1	1st	.. 7.6	1st to 7th	.. Closed.
2nd	.. 7.5	2nd	.. 8.0	8th	.. 8.2
3rd to 21st	.. 8.0	3rd to 11th, closure.		9th	.. 8.1
22nd	.. 8.1	12th to 15th	.. 8.0	10th	.. 8.0
23rd to 27th	.. 8.0	16th	.. 8.4	11th	.. 8.25
28th	.. 8.25	17th and 18th	.. 8.0	12th and 13th	.. 8.0
29th to 31st	.. 8.0	19th	.. 5.9	14th	.. 8.2
		20th to 26th	.. 8.0	15th	.. 8.0
		27th to 30th, closure.			

(*c*) Authorized full supply gauge for Lower Gugera at Bhagat is 8.0.

ZAMINDARS AND IRRIGATION BRANCH ENGINEERS.

***286. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that when a Chief Engineer or Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Branch, goes on tour in his *ilaqa* the subordinate officers are informed of his programme, while the zamindars are not informed at all ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that previous information of such a tour would be welcomed by zamindars who may have their grievances to submit ;

(*c*) if so, what action Government intend to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Zamindars are not officially and directly informed ; nor is it practicable to do so, though copies of Chief Engineers' and in some cases of Superintending Engineers' tour dates are sent to the Deputy Commissioners of the districts visited.

(*b*) Very possibly this is so.

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

(*c*) Except when surprise visits are contemplated information will be sent to the tahsils to be posted at the tahsil office for the information of all who are interested.

CUTS ON THE LOWER GUGERA CANAL.

***287. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that during the last *rabi* sowings there were at least three cuts on the lower Gugera Canal ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that these cuts occurred during the short periods that the canal was programmed to run full supply ;

(*c*) for how many days was the canal closed according to the programme during this period ;

(*d*) for how many days the canal was not running full due to the cuts ;

(*e*) whether as the result of *warabandi* of canals and the cut the zamindars of Toba Tek Singh and Samundari tahsils have suffered a great loss ;

(*f*) whether when the Chief Engineer visited Sandianwala rest-house in the last week of January 1931, the zamindars raised a hue and cry before him ;

(*g*) whether Government intend to grant liberal remissions to the zamindars of Lower Gugera during the present *rabi* crop by way of compensation for the loss ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The branch was not closed during this period.

(*d*) There was no shortage of supply at the head, but the supply in the lower reach was affected by the cuts for two days.

(*e*) No special loss has been reported.

(*f*) Many zamindars interviewed the Chief Engineer, but did not mention this subject.

(*g*) No remissions other than those admissible under the rules in force are proposed.

CLERKS HIGH COURT.

***288. Sardar Mohan Singh :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state communitywise (Hindu, Muslim and Sikhs) the numerical strength of the clerks of the following grade serving in the office of the High Court at Lahore :—

	Rs.
Junior Grade Clerks	45—3—90
Senior Grade Clerks	75—5—150
Translators—Junior and Senior Grade ..	75—7—145—10—300
Assistant Grade	100—10—300
Superintendent Grade	250—20—400 ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : A statement is laid on the table.

Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Others.
	8 *Superintendents.*		
3	1	1	3
	20 *Assistants.*		
12	4	1	3
	37 *Senior Clerks.*		
20	13	4	..
	78 *Junior Clerks.*		
33	35	9	1
	11 *Senior Translators.*		
6	5	..	..
	17 *Junior Translators.*		
11	6	..	..
85	64	15	7
	Total	..	171

READERS AND CLERKS IN COURTS.

***289. Sardar Mohan Singh :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to give communitywise the numbers of Readers and Clerks of the Courts of Senior Sub-Judges and District Judges in the Punjab ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

PROVINCIAL ENGINEERING SERVICE.

***290. Sardar Mohan Singh :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether appointments to the Provincial Engineering Service in the Irrigation Branch of the Punjab are not made by promotion from the subordinate service ; and, if so, why ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Of the present members of the Punjab Service of Engineers 42 per cent. are promoted subordinates.

RAIH TRACT.

***291. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) since when did the Drainage Board construct a drain to draw off the surplus waters of the Sarasti and Morikanda rivers from the tract known as the Raih tract in the Karnal district ;

(*b*) whether this water thus withdrawn was used for irrigating the lands of the Raih tract ;

(*c*) how much area of the Raih tract is watered and maturing now from this surplus water and how much area was watered before the Drainage Board constructed the aforesaid drain ;

(*d*) whether Government is aware that the lands of the Raih tract are becoming *banjar* and the villages are being deserted ;

(*e*) whether the Government has received any representations from the people of the Raih tract on the subject ;

(*f*) if the answer to part (*e*) is in the affirmative, what action, if any, the Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : It is regretted that the requisite information is not yet available. It will be communicated to the honourable member when received.

REVENUE ON MIXED CROPS.

***292. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any standard rules for charging revenue on the mixed crops ;

(*b*) whether in most cases it rests with the discretion of the officers ;

(*c*) whether there are any executive rules about it ; and, if so, whether Government will lay them on the table ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes, Rule 23 of the Rules under Act No. VIII of 1873.

(*b*) No, they are bound to follow rule 23.

(*c*) There are no other rules.

ABIANA.

***293. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether *abiana* is a charge made for the supply of water ;

(*b*) whether Government is aware that the bill (*chhota parachi*) for the use of canal water seldom reaches the zamindar who has used the water ;

(*c*) whether it is the custom of patwaris to leave the bills with one numberdar without caring whether it reaches the person for whom it is meant or not ;

(*d*) if so, what action Government intend to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) If by *abiana* the honourable member means water rates paid by occupiers, the answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) No. Complaints of non-receipts are sometimes received from individual cultivators, and these are enquired into and action is taken.

(*c*) The honourable member is referred to paragraphs 1·19 and 1·20 of the Canal Revenue Manual which lays down the procedure to be followed.

(*d*) A slight alteration of the existing orders is under consideration.

ELECTION RULES, ETC., OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

***294. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the defects in the rules, system of franchise and the division of constituencies for election to district boards in the Punjab have been brought to his notice ; and

(*b*) if so, what action he has taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Defects or supposed defects in the rules and in the composition of electoral circles are often pointed out to the Government, and when deemed advisable action has been taken and will be taken. It is not understood what precisely the honourable member means by " defects in the system of franchise." If he means that the qualifications of voters and members should be modified, the Government will be pleased to consider any suggestions that he may wish to make.

(*b*) The answer has been given in the reply to the first part.

CONSTITUENCIES OF LYALLPUR DISTRICT BOARD.

***295. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have received representations from the Traders' Committee, Lyallpur, that the constituencies of the Lyallpur District Board as constituted at present are very defective ;

(*b*) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the evil ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

CLERKS IN THE AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES AND CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENTS.

***296. Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any provision has been made in the Financial Commissioner's Standing Orders or in the new classification rules for

[Mr. Din Muhammad.]

the highly qualified clerks of the Departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation to rise to gazetted posts ;

(*b*) if not, whether Government intend to take any action in the matter ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) No. There is, however, no bar, except lack of technical qualification where this is essential against the promotion of clerks to gazetted posts.

(*b*) No.

CLERKS IN AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES AND CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENTS.

***297. Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state how many Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims from among the clerical staff of the Departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation have so far been accepted for Extra Assistant Commissionership or any other gazetted posts since the formation of these departments, the figures to be given separately for each department ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The required information is as follows :—

Department of Agriculture	One Hindu Clerk for Extra Assistant Commissionership.
Co-operative Department	Nil.
Industries Department	One Hindu Office Superintendent promoted to a gazetted post of Assistant to Director of Industries.

PROMOTION OF CLERKS TO EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERSHIP.

***298. Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Extra Assistant Commissioners accepted from the clerical staff of the Secretariat or other departments during the last six years ;

(*b*) how many of them were graduates ;

(*c*) whether in the selection of persons for nomination from among the clerical services any preference is shown to ordinary graduates or double graduates (in arts or law) ;

(*d*) if the reply to the above part be in the negative, whether Government intend to show such preference in future ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to parts (*e*) and (*f*) of starred Council question[1] No. 161 asked by Shaikh Faiz Muhammad in the current session of the Legislative Council.

[1]Pages 265-66 *ante*.

CLERKS IN AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES AND CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENTS AS EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES.

*299. **Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any orders that the members of the clerical staff of the departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation should not be accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioner candidates, and that no recommendation should be called for from the Heads of these Departments in this respect ;

(*b*) in case the reply to (*a*) is in the negative, the reasons for which the Heads of these three Departments were particularly ignored and overlooked in 1929, while recommendations were called for from Commissioners of the divisions and from various branches of the Secretariat Office ?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to part (*a*) of starred Council question No. 161[1] asked by Shaikh Faiz Muhammad in the current session of the Legislative Council.

SUPERINTENDENTS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES, JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

*300. **Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether all the Superintendents of Deputy Commissioners' Offices in the Jullundur division are non-Muslims ;

(*b*) if so, what steps Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) None.

SUPERINTENDENTS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES, JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

*301. **Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) how many candidates for the post of Superintendents of Deputy Commissioners' Offices have been recently accepted by the Commissioner, Jullundur division ;

(*b*) how many out of these candidates are Muslims ;

(*c*) what are their respective educational qualifications ;

(*d*) how has their seniority been regulated ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Five

(*b*) One.

(*c*) All are Matriculates except one, who is a B.A.

(*d*) No seniority has been laid down.

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[1]Pages 265-66 *ante*.

EXCISE INSPECTOR.

***302. Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether the post of a special grade Excise Inspector fell vacant last year on the death of Lala Kanhiya Lal ;

(*b*) if so, by whom it was filled ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Sardar Sahib Lal Singh.

EXCISE INSPECTORS.

***303. Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether promotions to the rank of Excise Inspectors are made only according to seniority or by selection from amongst the senior Excise Sub-Inspectors ;

(*b*) whether the recommendations of the Commissioners of the divisions were ignored in the matter of such promotions last year ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) It is laid down in section 141 of the Excise Manual that such promotions are to be made by selection.

(*b*) The recommendations of Commissioners were duly considered.

EXCISE INSPECTORS.

***304. Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) the total number of Excise Inspectors in the Punjab community-wise ;

(*b*) the community to which the Superintendent, Excise Branch, Excise Assistant to the Financial Commissioner and the Assistant dealing with the Excise establishment cases, belong ;

(*c*) what steps Government intend to take to secure a fair representation of the Muslim community in this branch of service ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Muslims 13, Hindus 13, Sikhs 7, others 1.

(*b*) Hindu.

(*c*) The Excise Assistant is a member of the Punjab Civil Service. The Superintendent and the Assistant in the Excise Branch belong to the general staff of the Financial Commissioners' Office, and not to the Excise cadre. Inspectors are appointed generally by promotion from among Sub-Inspectors who are ordinarily appointed by Commissioners. Government is not prepared to interfere with the discretion of Commissioners in the matter. They will doubtless comply with the general instructions of Government regarding communal representations in its service.

HEAD VERNACULAR CLERKS IN JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

***305. Mr. Din Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) the total number of Head Vernacular Clerks in the Jullundur division ;

(*b*) how many out of these are Muslims ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Six.

(*b*) Four.

LALA PIRTHWI NATH, POLITICAL PRISONER.

***306. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the weight of Lala Pirthwi Nath, a political prisoner in Ambala Jail, has been reduced by 24 lbs. ?

(*b*) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this decrease ?

(*c*) What is the disease from which Lala Pirthwi Nath is suffering ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) He has lost 21lbs in weight since his admission to jail.

(*b*) He is constitutionally weak and anæmic, and also suffers from chronic malaria.

(*c*) Chronic malaria.

HAISIYAT TAX, JAGADHRI MUNICIPALITY.

***307. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Jagadhri Municipal Committee has imposed *haisiyat* tax ;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will lay a copy of the tax schedule on the table ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that in the schedule of the Jagadhri *haisiyat* tax, the brokers have been taxed at Rs. 100 ;

(*d*) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will the Govern ment be pleased to state the income on which Rs. 100 is the tax ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) No.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS.

***308. Chaudhri Nazir Husain :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state the principal duties of a Deputy Collector, a Sub-Divisional Officer, an Executive Engineer and a Superintending Engineer ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The honourable member is referred to the Public Works Department Code, Public Works Account Code, Revenue Manual, Irrigation Manual of Orders, Punjab Budget Manual, Manual of Budget Procedure, Civil Service Regulations, Civil Account Code, Punjab Financial Handbooks Nos. 1 and 2, Irrigation Handbook of Professional Orders, Northern India Canal and Drainage Act No. VIII of 1873 and rules and Notifications thereunder.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

***309. Chaudhri Nazir Husain :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether the duties of a canal patwari, a zilladar and a Deputy Collector are purely revenue duties, while the duties of a mistri and an overseer are purely engineering duties ;

(*b*) whether the maintenance of channels is the chief duty of a Sub-Divisional Officer though he also performs revenue duties ;

(*c*) whether an Executive Engineer has to perform both engineering and revenue duties ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes, but some overseers are required to perform revenue duties also.

(*b*) No, the one duty is as important as the other.

(*c*) Yes.

SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS.

***310. Chaudhri Nazir Husain :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) the qualifications of a Sub-Divisional Officer for discharging (1) engineering duties, and (2) revenue duties ;

(*b*) the examination, if any, a Sub-Divisional Officer passes to qualify himself for discharging revenue duties ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) (1) Usually a certificate from the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorki, or a degree in engineering from a recognised University together with (in both cases) one or two years' practical engineering experience or experience in the Department.

(*b*) (2) Experience in the Department.

There is no separate qualifying examination ; every Engineer officer has to pass the Departmental Revenue Examination prescribed in Article 13, Irrigation Manual of Orders, 1st Edition.

DEPUTY COLLECTORS AND SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS.

***311. Chaudhri Nazir Husain :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state the objection, if any, to the revenue duties being entirely entrusted to a Deputy Collector and the maintenance of channels being left to a Sub-Divisional Officer ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : There are several, for most of them the honourable member is referred to paragraph 6·3 of the Revenue Manual of the Irrigation Branch, 3rd edition.

SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS.

*312. **Chaudhri Nazir Husain :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state how much time on the average a Sub-Divisional Officer spends daily in the discharge of (1) engineering duties, and (2) revenue duties?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No statistics on this matter have been maintained or can be obtained, everything depends on the work in the Sub-Division and the season of the year.

ASSISTANT ENGINEERS AND REVENUE QUALIFICATIONS.

*313. **Chaudhri Nazir Husain :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state the objection, if any, to—

(*a*) an Assistant Engineer being required within a certain period of his recruitment to qualify himself for a Deputy Collector's post;

(*b*) an Executive Engineer serving for a certain number of years as a Deputy Collector before he is appointed as an Executive Engineer?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) and (*b*) Every Engineer Officer is required to study revenue rules, procedure and practice and to pass the Departmental Revenue Examination within a prescribed period.

JURISDICTION OF SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS.

*314. **Chaudhri Nazir Husain :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) the objection, if any, to the territorial jurisdiction of a Sub-Divisional Officer being extended on his being relieved of revenue duties;

(*b*) the minimum number of Sub-Divisional Officers required for maintaining channels only;

(*c*) the total reduction of expenditure as the result of reduction in the number of Sub-Divisional Officers?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) There is no proposal to relieve Sub-Divisional Officers of revenue duties; and the question of extending their territorial jurisdiction does not arise therefore.

(*b*)
(*c*) } Do not arise.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

***315. Lala Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state the number of honorary magistrates (communitywise, *i.e.*, Muhammadans, Sikhs and Hindus) in the Sheikhupura district ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : One Muhammadan and three Sikhs.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : How is it that no Hindu has been appointed to this bench ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I do not know.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I should like to know the reasons why a Hindu has not been appointed. If desired I shall give notice of the question.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES, SHEIKHUPURA AND SHAHDARA.

***316. Lala Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to appoint benches of honorary magistrates at Sheikhupura and Shahdara ;

(*b*) if so, how will the benches be composed and in what strength the various communities will be represented on them ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AT SHAHDARA.

***317. Lala Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a representation has been submitted to Government regarding the paucity of Hindu gentlemen on the bench of honorary magistrates proposed to be established at Shahdara ;

(*b*) if so, what action Government has taken or intends to take on it ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DEPRESSED CLASSES.

***318. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many scholarships to the depressed classes boys have been awarded during the year 1930-31 ;

(*b*) whether he is aware that a sweeper boy named Yashmant Rai, a 1st year student of the D. A.-V. College, Lahore, and

D. M. College, Moga, has been applying for a scholarship; and, whether he has been awarded the scholarship; if not, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that two sweeper boys were admitted into the Normal School at Jullundur, and, if so, whether they have been awarded scholarships; and if not, why?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (a) Twelve.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, they were admitted but later were transferred to the Government High School, Karnal, to join the Hindi Units there, as they could not read Urdu.

SIKHS IN SERVICES UNDER THE HIGH COURT.

***319. Sardar Mohan Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(a) whether he is aware that some time back a deputation of Sikhs waited on the Honourable the Chief Justice with the request to make up the deficiency of the Sikhs in appointments under the High Court;

(b) whether he is also aware that the Honourable the Chief Justice promised to give sympathetic consideration to their request;

(c) if the answers to questions (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, what steps have been taken to adjust the proportional representation of Sikhs in the services under the High Court?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

SIKHS AMONG EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

***320. Sardar Mohan Singh :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly say—

(a) whether he is aware that the number of Sikhs in the cadre of Extra Assistant Commissioners is less than their proportionate representation in the province;

(b) whether he is aware that their strength has been reduced further by two during the present financial year;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to adjust this deficiency in the proportional strength of the Sikhs?

Mr. D. J. Boyd : (a) No, on the contrary the proportion of Sikhs in the Punjab Civil Service (Executive Branch) is more than it should be on a population basis.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

MUNSHI HEM SINGH, READER.

***321. Sardar Mohan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that one Munshi Hem Singh was a reader in the Court of Rai Bahadur Chaudhri Gurmukh Singh, Honorary Civil Judge, Rawalpindi;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the said Hem Singh was compulsorily retired about five years earlier on proportionate pension;

(*c*) if so, what are the reasons for his early retirement and whether Government are prepared to compensate him for the loss thus suffered?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) He was not a reader but an ahlmad.

(*b*) No. He had reached the age of 55 years and received a superannuation pension.

(*c*) No.

JHATKA MEAT FOR SIKH PRISONERS.

***322. Sardar Mohan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the Sikhs do not take meat other than *Jhatka*, and whether it is a fact that A class prisoners are allowed to have meat in jails;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the Sikhs are denied the use of *Jhatka* meat in the jails;

(*c*) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) It is believed this is so as regards a number of Sikhs.

(*b*) The supply of *Jhatka* meat is allowed in some jails where there is a satisfactory source of supply and where hitherto no difficulties have occurred over its introduction.

(*c*) Where it is impossible to supply *Jhatka*, arrangements are made for the provision of fish and eggs.

GOVERNMENTS DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I wish to announce to the Council that all the grants printed in the list of Government's demands for grants are submitted to the House on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon [Minister for Education]: Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,400 be granted to the Governor in Council and the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Expenditure in England under the control of the Secretary of State."

The motion was carried.

EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND (OTHER THAN STORES) UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a sum a not exceeding Rs. 6,13,880 be granted to the Governor in Council and the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Expenditure in England (other than Stores) under the control of the High Commissioner for India."

Mr. President:

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,13,880 be granted to the Governor in Council and the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Expenditure in England (other than Stores) under the control of the High Commissioner for India."

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural]: Sir, as regards the total demand, I want to say a word or two as the memorandum presented by the Finance Department is not very clear. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture to page 460 of the Budget Estimates wherein some items that have been provided for the next year are much in excess of what were provided for the current year. For instance, I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to item 37—Miscellaneous Departments, where he had provided Rs. 9,600 for next year as against Rs. 4,000 for the present year; so is the case with Stationery and Printing where Rs. 10,000 has been provided for next year as against Rs. 5,200 for this year. Again I would draw attention to No. 47—Miscellaneous Reserved, where he has provided Rs. 12,560 as against Rs. 200 only for the current year. I really cannot understand whether these sums are absolutely necessary. Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly throw some light on it?

Mr. F. H. Puckle [Finance Secretary]: This statement relates to the expenditure in England under the High Commissioner, in respect of leave salaries, overseas pay, and various charges shared by the local Government. I regret I cannot give an exact reason why the demand in this particular year and under these particular heads exceeds the demand in the previous years, but the probability is, and if the honourable member requires more information I will try to get for him, that it is because an officer whose leave salary is debited to this particular head, is expected to go on leave during next year.

Mr. President: Question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,13,880 be granted to the Governor in Council and the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Expenditure in England (other than Stores) under the control of the High Commissioner for India."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,26,700 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Refunds (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (RESERVED).

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik [Finance Member]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,12,200 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Refunds (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

LOANS BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,45,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Loans by Provincial Governments (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

LOANS BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS (RESERVED).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,52,300 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Loans by Provincial Governments (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,900 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Stationery and Printing (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING (RESERVED).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,11,850 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Stationery and Printing (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE).

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik [Finance Member]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,47,800 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions (Capital Expenditure)."

Mr. President:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,47,800 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions (Capital Expenditure)."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: It is quite alright that we should allow pensions to those who have served us, but I ask if it is correct during this financial stringency to commute the value of pensions. I would therefore request the Government to discourage this system of commutation, which was alright when we had plenty of money. On the one hand you say that there is no money and you want to increase the charges but on the other you are reserving 8 crores for commutation. This system is very bad and it ought to be stopped.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik [Finance Member]: Sir, I think that within certain limitations an officer has a right to demand that a part of his pension should be commuted and in the long run the system is probably an economy to the Government. Rates are carefully worked out on actuarial calculation and I take it that the amount paid to the officer in commutation of his pension is so calculated that on the whole the Government saves. We do in times of stringency what we can to discourage commutation but we cannot altogether stop it because it is the right which an officer has to demand commutation.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,47,800 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik [Finance Member]: I move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,15,500 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions."

The motion was carried.

FAMINE.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: I move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Famine."

The motion was carried.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE).

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang [Minister for Local Self-Government]: I move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,51,33,170 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Hydro-Electric Scheme (Capital Expenditure)."

Mr. President:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,51,33,170 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Hydro-Electric Scheme (Capital Expenditure)."

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit: I have given notice of two motions.

Mr. President: They were not in time.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Does it not lie with the Honourable Minister to accept the amendments? If they were received late, should they be ruled out of order?

Mr. President: Unless an amendment is before the House no question of its acceptance or rejection arises.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit: I shall move my amendments and see whether they are accepted or not.

Mr. President: The notice of amendments should have been given at least two days before to-day, therefore, they cannot be allowed to be moved.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit: Then I rise to oppose the grant. In my budget speech I gave an indication as to the attitude which I shall adopt with regard to this particular scheme, the Mandi Hydro-Electric scheme. I made it absolutely plain that so far as I was concerned, after having read all the literature on the subject which has appeared so far, it was my firm conviction that the scheme would not prove a success. Far from it, the province will have to incur a very heavy loss, a loss extending to about 12 crores of rupees, if we include the Kangra Valley Railway along with this Hydro-Electric scheme. I stated and I repeat that this project, when it was first broached was calculated to cost Rs. 276 lakhs which included the cost of the railway as well. It was called a tramway at that time. In 1923, the cost was calculated to be Rs. 328 lakhs. In 1924-25, this question came before the House and the matter was thoroughly discussed. The scheme was opposed by my honourable friend, Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, who holds charge of this scheme now and by Professor Ruchi Ram and certain other gentlemen who could understand the technical

side of this question also. There was a very illuminating debate but unfortunately the Government benches and our zamindar friends opposed the scheme and for practical purposes it carried and it is being carried through now. The scheme as then placed before the House excluding the cost of the railway was calculated to cost Rs. 420 lakhs. From Rs. 276 lakhs which originally included the cost of the railway the scheme as placed before the Council was calculated to cost Rs. 4 crores and odd excluding the railway. That is a point which the House should note. Then, this House, in 1929 appointed or recommended to the Government the appointment of a committee to go into the whole matter. This committee was accordingly appointed and a number of gentlemen from this House also served on it—some of them I see present here to-day. The committee went through the question and came to the conclusion that the cost would not be in any case less than Rs. 625 lakhs. There was thus a difference of 2 crores between the estimate of the scheme when it was presented to the House and that which on enquiry the committee found that it would cost. Originally we were told that the scheme would give a dividend of 16 per cent. It dwindled down to 10 per cent. after a short time, that is in 1923, and then it dwindled down further to 6 per cent. in 1925, and the enquiry committee places it at 5½ per cent. when the scheme would be working at its best. I have read the Enquiry Committee's report. The report shows, if you read it carefully between the lines, that the enquirers had very grave doubts regarding the success of the scheme. On various pages of the report you will find halting statements made by these various gentlemen which show that even at its best the scheme is not likely to produce the results which they have put down in black and white. One very important factor to which my friend, Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri, in his budget speech drew the attention of the House, was that while this Enquiry Committee was sitting, the Government or those who were responsible for the carrying out of this scheme placed orders for over one crore and a half rupees, the idea being that when those orders are placed and certain expenditure has been incurred the figures would loom large, between Rs. 3 and 4 crores, and it will not be possible for the members of the committee to recommend the total abolition of the scheme. For, naturally the question will arise in the minds of the people: "Here we are, we have spent about Rs. 3 to 4 crores; what is the good now of recommending the total abolition of the scheme; let us proceed along with it." This was, I submit, a very serious matter, a matter on which the department and the Minister ought to have been censured by this House, that while the Enquiry Committee was sitting and going into the matters, whether the scheme would be a paying concern or not, whether it will give good dividend or not, while these matters were being considered, such a large order or contract was entered into to the extent of this sum by which indirectly it was sought to bind the hands of the Enquiry Committee. No reply was given to this criticism made by my honourable friend, Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri. Then the House should know one further fact. We were told when this scheme was broached that electricity would be made possible to the Punjabis by the end of the year 1930. Now the project, it seems, will not be in full working order and we will not get the benefit of it till July 1933. Thus we see on all these possible points, the cost, the dividend and the supply of energy to the people, the calculations made by the originators

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of the scheme were entirely wrong, made without showing that expert knowledge which is essential in the carrying out of schemes of such magnitude. I submit that only one of two explanations is possible. Either the actual facts were knowingly withheld from the Council so that the Council may pass the scheme as it was presented or the persons who were in charge of the scheme were entirely incompetent for the great work which they had undertaken. There cannot be a third explanation. If there is a third alternative, that third explanation would have been given to us. We as laymen cannot but come to this conclusion that the scheme when it was brought forward and the scheme at the present stage shows that either there was a suppression of facts or that the persons who made those calculations were entirely incompetent and inefficient to carry out such a big scheme. It is for the House to decide after having read the report of the Enquiry Committee whether any kind of action is essential in this matter or not. My own submission is that it leaves no room for doubt that persons who were responsible for bringing forward this scheme were incompetent and the scheme was not properly presented to the House and that they did not know their work. There is another thing attached to this scheme and that is the Kangra Valley tramway as it was first called. That was a part of the scheme. It is now not so and lest there should appear so much loss to the province, it has been separated from the original scheme and given entirely a different shape. That was to cost something like 40 lakhs—that was the original estimate. Its actual cost has gone over Rs. 3 crores. Originally the estimated cost was Rs. 40 lakhs, it went up to Rs. 90 lakhs, again in 1925, to Rs. 134 lakhs and now it is about Rs. 3 crores. I do not know whether honourable members have seen this railway. I have had the honour of having a look at it. It plies between Pathankot and I believe Jogindernagar. It is a useless railway. It is a profitless undertaking. It is a railway which is going to cost the province something like Rs. 3 lakhs every year. (*Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal*: Four lakhs). Whether it is Rs. 4 lakhs or less or more, the point is this that it is a profitless railway. The Kalka-Simla Railway, for instance, pays about 3 per cent. of interest, or call it dividend, on the capital expenditure on it. But the Kalka-Simla Railway serves Simla, Solon and many other hill stations. This railway does not serve any important place. Kangra, Dharmsala and Nurpur are far away from the line, and it is no good to the people. They make use of motor cars, buses or some other conveyance to reach these places. People can travel much faster by motor buses than by this railway. I do not know how the province can reconcile itself to this great loss on the Kangra Valley Railway. The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh said—in fact he interrupted my speech by saying—that they were not responsible for it. Originally they were responsible. Later on some sort of arrangement was come to between the Railway Board and the Punjab Government by which the Railway Board took up the Kangra Valley Railway on condition that the Punjab Government assured them of paying a certain amount each year for 12 years. According to that arrangement the Punjab Government will have to make up that loss for the next 12 years. The Kangra Valley Railway stands there as a monument of the folly of those who originally undertook it.

The question is: inspite of the expenditure of Rs. 6.25 crores, are we going to benefit by this project?

Shaikh Muhmmad Sadiq : Have we spent Rs. 6.25 crores?

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : I am taking the figures which will have been spent by the year 1933, when this scheme will come into operation. Even after spending so many crores of rupees let us see whether the province will in any way benefit by it. On this point the report of the Committee of Enquiry says that the cost per unit would be 8.14 pies while the cost per unit for the Lahore Electric Supply Company is 4 pies, the cost per unit for the Mysore Hydro-Electric Scheme is less than one pie, and the cost per unit of electric schemes in the United Provinces is a little more than one pie. This will show that the scheme can never be a paying concern. There are better rivers in the Punjab than in the United Provinces and also better canal systems. But still the United Provinces has got a much better and cheaper system of electric supply than the Punjab can have under the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. Before the scheme was launched there were many debates in this House and various other schemes such as the Madhopur scheme and other schemes were put before the Government for consideration of their comparative merits and demerits. All of them were lightly brushed aside because the originators of this scheme did not want to abandon this in preference to any other schemes. I ask one question of the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: what possible explanation can he give in the face of these startling figures which he cannot challenge, which he did not challenge and which I ask him to challenge if he can to-day, —in the face of these startling figures what explanation can he give for his thus sticking to this wonderful Mandi scheme? In reply to certain criticisms made in this House he said that so far as he was concerned, he had nothing to do with the origin of the scheme; it was a baby passed on to him. Well, Sir, babies have life and they grow; but this was not a baby which was passed on to him; it was a doll moved by some mechanical devices and made to dance here and there. I submit it will prove to be a dead thing after 1933. The question is: if Sardar Sahib does not take responsibility, who takes responsibility for originating the scheme. I ask the Government who does? The present Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government cannot take responsibility because he was a strong opponent of the scheme. The Sardar Sahib does not take responsibility because it was a baby passed on to him. Whom then are we to hold responsible for the scheme. There was a time when the Sardar Sahib used to say, "Yes, I take full responsibility for the scheme. I take full responsibility for the baby which was passed into my hands." Now that the baby is passed into the hands of somebody else, so far as he is concerned, he has no responsibility. Perhaps he may say that the Council is responsible. But the Council in such matters cannot take full responsibility because it was a technical scheme formulated by the experts. Suppose some expert comes forward with some sort of scheme saying that he will electrify the whole of the Punjab, all the cities of the Punjab—Lahore, Ludhiana, Jullundur and Amritsar—and that he will supply electricity at a cheap rate, is the Council wrong in sanctioning the scheme? If false promises or promises which ought not to have been made, promises which have now proved to be absolutely unreliable, are

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made, how can the Council be held responsible for the scheme? Even supposing that the Council was responsible for the scheme, I would now ask the Council to examine the scheme again on its merits and abandon it altogether. I maintain that the scheme even as it is painted at its best in the report of the Enquiry Committee, cannot prove to be a paying concern. They have told us that up to 1945, *i.e.*, for 12 years after the scheme comes into operation, we cannot expect any return. They only go on the hypothesis that people will want electricity, there will be an increase in demand and so on. I ask: why should people want electricity at this rate?

There is one other danger which I wish to point out to the House. When once this scheme comes into operation it will throttle all other cheaper and better schemes in the Punjab. It was actually the case in the case of certain schemes which were discussed in the House before. Government refused to give grants or sanction to any other scheme. That is another danger. Many proposals have been referred to by honourable members in the course of the debates in this House, which if carried out or if permitted to be carried out, can supply cheaper electricity and give more efficient service than the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. But they are all brushed aside. Government does not pay even the least attention to these schemes. Even when they do not come into conflict with their own pet Mandi scheme they reject them. That is not the way to make the Punjab prosperous. That is the way to keep down the Punjab and not allow it to rise to the level of other prosperous provinces in India and prosperous countries of the world. (*Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan*: Somebody prospers.) My friend says, somebody prospers, but it is not the people of the Punjab. If the scheme costs Rs. 9 crores or Rs. 12 crores including the Kangra Valley Railway, just imagine the interest on Rs. 12 crores every year. What does it come to? Just imagine how prosperous the finances of the Punjab would be if it had not been for this scheme.

My Honourable friend Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, said: "I was undoubtedly a critic of the scheme. I was not responsible for the scheme. But we have proceeded so far and we cannot go back." Why, he has paid two or three visits to Jogendranagar; he has had certain number of houses built there; he has seen the railway itself and probably he had a ride on the railway. He has seen all the other things also. Having seen all these things he thought that the scheme would succeed and be profitable after some years. I have also no doubt that the scheme will succeed if by success is meant that you will be able to generate electricity there. Why, instead of spending Rs. 9 crores you spend Rs. 12 crores you will surely be able to generate electricity.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: It is not 9 crores; it is only 6¼ crores including interest.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit: You do not include the interest of 3 crores. If the Sardar Sahib pleases let us put it at 9 crores. Even then Rs. 9 crores are lost to the province:

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: It is only Rs. 6¼ crores.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit: What about the payment for the Railway?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : It is only Rs. 30,000 a year.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : What is this Rs. 4 lakhs a year mentioned by the Enquiry Committee as being due to the Government of India by the Punjab Government? The amount has to be paid for 13 years until 1945.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : The amount debitable to the project is only Rs. 38,000.

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : Let it be Rs. 38,000 or even Rs. 1,000 only; it shows it is a losing concern. Does my Honourable friend believe in his heart of hearts that it is going to be a profitable concern? He came to the Council waving his flag and saying that this was going to be a profitable concern. Now he admits that for 13 years to come the Punjab has to pay Rs. 38,000 a year to the Central Government in order to make up for the loss. If you admit that it is a losing concern you give your whole case away. It does not matter to me whether you lose Rs. 4 lakhs or Rs. 38,000. Why did you in the first instance come to the Council and say that this Railway will be a profitable concern? Why did you not straightaway admit that the project is bound to lose? If it is bound to lose why not give it up? That is the point. What reply have the Honourable gentlemen to give to these questions? I know that some sort of reply will be given which will satisfy some people here, but which will never satisfy any reasonable man. If the scheme is going to be a profitless concern, why go on with all these matters, why not stop here, why ask the province to undergo a further loss of 2 crores of rupees? I understand up to this time 4 crores of rupees have been spent on the Hydro-Electric scheme. Some put it down at 3 crores but the exact figures must be with the Ministers. I submit therefore that if the scheme is abandoned at this stage, the loss to the province would not amount to so much. There may be found someone who is willing to buy up the scheme. There is a difference in the way Government manages such affairs and in the way a private concern manages them. Private companies manage such business with the object of gain. Therefore they are not ready to employ engineers drawing Rs. 3,000 a month, or Rs. 2,000 a month or Rs. 1,500 a month and so on and so forth. They will throw out people whom they find to be incompetent, whereas Government is bound by its contracts of service and it cannot turn them out. Government has placed them there and they must remain there and they must draw their pay. My object is, as I have said, to ask the House to throw out the scheme. The scheme has been like a millstone round the neck of the Punjabis and they cannot afford to go on with it.

There is another point and that is that certain economies are recommended by the Enquiry Committee. These have not been carried out, and I find that the scheme is run on most costly lines. I was just looking at some questions and answers and I came across a question put by Mr. Labh Singh. The question is:

> "Will the Honourable Member for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to Council question No. 1246 asked on 30th July 1929—
>
> (*a*) how the percentage of 27.7 of Indian officers has been arrived at;
>
> (*b*) how the figures of the total amount paid in salaries to European officers have been made out?"

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This answer was given :

" .... It is regretted that in the above statement, through an error, percentages are as follows :—

(i) percentage of Indian officers to total number of officers 21.73 ;

(ii) percentage of salary paid to Indian officers to total salary paid : 14.51 and 17·15.

Then most of the engineers employed are Europeans, only two or three are Indians, and they draw salaries ranging between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 3,178. The Enquiry Committee recommended the employment of Indians on a larger scale. I do not know whether that economy has been carried out or not. Then I find that some engineers were employed and after a few years they went away. The reply was that their contract had terminated, and they did not want to renew their contract. They saw that the whole scheme was a fraud and that they could not make a success of it and so they went away.

Then the stores are being purchased from the most expensive places. There are certain materials which can be purchased in India cheaply but they are purchased in England. If it is going to be a commercial concern, I do not understand why German or American engineers were not employed on less pay if Indians were not available. I doubt very much that suitable Indian engineers could not be found. Certain Hydro-Electric schemes have been carried out by the Indians in Kashmir, in Mysore and in certain other places. Why cannot Indians be found for our scheme ? All this shows that this is a department for which nobody is responsible. This is a department in which nobody takes any interest, and we do not know what to do with it. It stands there self-condemned, and the Council is now asked whether to retain it in its present form or whether it should be abandoned. This is for you to decide. After having given the matter my full consideration I cannot be a party to the acceptance of a scheme of this kind. My friend will pardon me, but it is a mad venture and it will always remain a mad venture. The Honourable Finance Member unjustly criticised me as being a pessimist. In fact his criticisms and mine are just on the same lines. I never said I was pessimistic. I am always an optimist, and I believe I am so optimistic as to hope that the honourable members will be bold enough to say that this is a scheme which we undertook in a moment of forgetfulness, it is going to cost us immensely and we are going to throw it away.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : [Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban] (*Urdu*) : Sir, the speech of my honourable friend has reminded me of a proverb :—

اب پچھتائے کیا ہوت جب چڑیاں چگ گئیں کھیت

It is no use crying over spilt milk. The milk is spilt and if there is left any quantity of it in the vessel preserve it if you can. When the scheme was first introduced, Lala Ruchi Ram, Sahni, opposed it very strongly. At that time we were novices and had no experience of the working of the Council or the Government. We endorsed the scheme relying on the wisdom of the Government and their officers, knowing little that we were committing a blunder and taking a step that will be ruinous to the interests of those whom

we represent. We were blinded by the sweet words and high hopes that were held out to us by the Government. They coaxed us into giving our assent to the proposal by promising marvellous achievements by it. The Government did not stop at that. They also undertook to construct the Kangra Valley Railway, which, we thank our star, has since been handed over to the Government of India otherwise we would have suffered another loss on that account. They made a fool of the Government of India in a very nice manner. They made them believe that it would not cost them more than a crore of rupees, and that it would turn out a very profitable concern. Borrowing is not necessarily a bad thing. Other nations have borrowed and will borrow for their uplift, but they never take a leap into the dark as our Government has done. By taking this loan for the Hydro-Electric Scheme they have placed the people of this province under an extra burden of Rs. 4 per head. Some time back in a speech on this very subject I had expressed my doubts that the scheme might not fail like the Bombay Back Bay Scheme but many honourable members said that my doubts were unfounded and made very optimistic speeches. The Government officers have brought ruin over our heads and I draw the attention of the Government to mete out to them some condign punishment. The Government every now and then takes us to task for the mismanagement of the district boards and the municipal committees, but now since it is their own affair they are sitting silent and taking no action against their officers who misled them as well as the country by making wrong estimates. I stress upon the Government the necessity of calling the explanation of the responsible officers for they have given a mighty set back to the finances of the province. The estimate of the expenditure in the beginning stood at Rs. 2,76,00,000. In 1923, they increased it to Rs. 3,28,00,000. In 1924, it was raised to Rs. 5,38,00,000. Now in 1928, it took a long leap and reached the figure Rs. 9,00,00,000. Like an aeroplane in flight heading high altitudes the estimate of the Hydro Electric Scheme climbs up and up every year. It takes long and terrifying jumps. Moreover Sir, was it not nefarious for the Government to deceive the Government of India's Railway Board into undertaking the construction of Kangra Valley Railway? The Government of India was given to understand that the construction of this Railway would not cost them more than a crore of rupees. But now the estimate of the expenditure required for this Railway has increased to three crores. The Government of India agreed to our proposal in order to help us but we on our part have not acquitted ourselves nobly. The Government have not even raised a finger against their officers. The Government are sitting quite unperturbed and it appears that they do not want to condescend to look into this matter which requires immediate attention. The scheme is bound to prove ruinous and we being the representatives of the people regard it our duty to request the Government to take steps to divert the danger that awaits the province in the very near future. The Government are trying to shift responsibility from one shoulder to another. It is not the fault of one individual but of the whole Government. It is their collective responsibility. The Honourable the Minister for Agriculture is not alone to blame. He is only a part of the whole Government machinery. If the other honourable members of the Government had not supported him at that time we were sure to prevail

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upon him to give his consent to our proposal. Now at least the Government should no longer try to sleep over the matter. Let them adopt measures to check the impending danger, otherwise they are bound to lose their credit. We requested the Government to open a hospital for the people. It would have cost at the most a crore of rupees, but they did not agree to it, but only laid too much emphasis on the Hydro Electric Scheme. Had they acceded to our request it would have been far better inasmuch as the people would have by this time got too much benefit by the existence of that hospital. Really Sir, if such a thing had happened in England the Government would have by this time prosecuted the officers responsible for such a misconduct.

Then, we requested the Government to throw away the scheme but they did not even agree to that and appointed a Commission to investigate the Mandi Hydro Electric Scheme. The commission after its investigation recommended in its report the carrying on o the work of the scheme until it is finished. They said much capital had been invested on it and therefore to abandon it would amount to mere wastage of thatc apital. According to the members of the Commission only a little more expenditure would complete the scheme. Consequently we willingly or unwillingly, for there are many such honourable members who blindly follow the behests of the Government, agreed to the increased grant in order to enable them to proceed with the scheme. The Council consists of very tame members and the Government can easily obtain their consent to any of their proposals. They can make them agree to the taking of a loan of 50 crores or even more. The burden of the debt is to fall on the people and not on them. So they little care for the sufferings of the people. They regard the people just like a pack bull—I do not use the word donkey, for this term would be very derogatory—and heedlessly burden it little caring that too much burden will break its back. They are indifferent to the national debt that they are accumulating on the heads of the people.

Then, the working at the site was most mismanaged. There was defective control over the staff appointed for the Mandi Hydro Electric Scheme. The people there sold bags of cement at a nominal price of 3 annas. They mixed sand in large quantities with the cement that was used in connection with the scheme. Last year even before the passing of the grant for the scheme by this House the Officer-in-charge of the Hydro Electric Scheme had ordered machinery worth 1½ crores from England. Such was the mismanagement there. Much is due to the lack of control. If the agent of an ordinary firm had done like that he would have been by this time dismissed from service. No one can tolerate such a behaviour.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member please speak to the question ?

Shaikh Muhmmad Sadiq : It is just like travelling on a scenic railway. The Kangra Valley Railway is so very small that even a man like myself feels inconvenient while travelling by it. The train that runs on it is just like a toy with small compartments. In the end I request the Government to appoint a committee to go into the question whether the money so far spent on this scheme has been made best use of or whether

it has been wasted and also whether the machinery purchased for the purpose has been purchased at proper prices.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I think the House is altogether right in paying full attention to this scheme, the first large scheme which was taken up by the Government on the transferred side. But when critically examining the scheme like this, in fairness to Government, members at least ought to have read the Report of the Mandi Enquiry Committee and ascertain their facts. Either the House should disown the findings of the Mandi Enquiry Committee's Report ; or, if the facts given in the Report are correct then the honourable members should accept them as accurate. My complaint is that my honourable friend from Hoshiarpur (Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit) said that he had very carefully read all the literature that was available. I have no doubt that he has done so, but I should like him to tell me, if he had read all the literature, how he can ignore facts which were brought together by the Mandi Enquiry Committee. Either he must accept the facts given by the Enquiry Committee as accurate or he must say that they are altogether wrong. If the facts placed by the Enquiry Committee before this House are correct, then his assertion that the scheme is going to cost 12 crores is entirely wrong. The Mandi Enquiry Committee after carefully investigating the whole scheme and taking all the contingencies that might arise, have definitely stated, that the scheme is not going to cost more than 6¼ crores. I do not know on what ground the honourable member says that the scheme is going to cost 12 crores !

Mr. Nanak Chand Pandit : On a point of personal explanation. I never said that the scheme will cost 12 crores. What I said was that the scheme itself was to cost 6¼ crores, the Kangra Railway was to cost 3 crores and the interest on the amount already invested another 3 crores, altogether making 12 crores.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: I will leave the House to judge whether the estimates which the honourable member has placed before the House can be taken into consideration. So far as the scheme itself is concerned, he has admitted that it will cost 6½ crores. The honourable member says that because the Kangra Valley Railway was built for no other purpose, than for serving the Mandi scheme, therefore, another sum of 3½ crores should be added to the cost of the scheme and what is more, he says that 3½ crores should be added on account of interest. I am sure the honourable members are not prepared to accept these calculations.

Then, again, my friend from Amritsar accused Government of launching on this scheme without any critical examination of the project. I think, here again, he would have found the reply in the Report of the Mandi Enquiry Committee itself. Government acted collectively in this matter and took every precaution. The scheme was submitted not to one specialist but to many. The Mandi Enquiry Committee's Report gives the names of the experts that were consulted on this subject. The scheme was submitted to and approved of by the Government of India. On the financial side the scheme was examined by Mr. Gray of Messrs. Begg, Sutherland and Co., Managing Directors of the Cawnpore Electric Supply Co. In addition the project was submitted to the scrutiny of Messrs.

[Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.]

Merz and McLellan, Consulting Engineers who called in Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners to assist in examining the scheme on the civil engineering side. I do not know what else the Government could have done. The Mandi Enquiry Committee's finding was—and I do not want to conceal any facts from the honourable members—that experts who were consulted, gave their advice without visiting the site. Government could not be blamed if the experts accepted the data that were placed before them. Supposing you want to take up a scheme. All that you can do is to go to the best possible expert and get his opinion. That opinion was obtained by the Punjab Government. This scheme was submitted by the Punjab Government to the Government of India. The Government of India obtained the best possible advice that was available and on that advice the Punjab Government acted.

Then, my friend, from Amritsar, also accused us that by some subtle way we deceived the Government of India and persuaded it to construct the Kangra Valley Railway. I think he perhaps knows that the Government of India and the Railway Board are not so easily taken in by any advice or recommendation of a local Government. The Railway Board is an expert body which goes into every detail of a scheme and no recommendation is accepted without a careful examination. I know as a chairman of Communication Board that when we recommend building of a new railway the Railway Board examines the project and then decides on the merits of the scheme. I must say that my friend, Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit was very fair when he said that the responsibility for the approval of the scheme rests with the experts. He admitted it himself in his speech, and I think we owe it to his fairness in this matter that he recognises, that a scheme of this kind has to be accepted by any business firm or Government on the advice of experts, and all that could be done in this matter was done by the Punjab Government. It has been also said that there is no one who takes responsibility for the scheme. I think the honourable members must have misunderstood my meaning. What I said, was that when I came to office the scheme was already conceived, accepted and sanctioned by this Council. I naturally took it, that the scheme had been carefully examined by our experts and by the Council and I took the responsibility of carrying it through, and I can say that all the officers of the department have done all that they could to carry out the scheme. It has been said that the estimates in this scheme have been exceeded but it is not for the first time that estimates have been exceeded. There were three schemes taken up during this period, the Kangra Valley Railway, and the Sutlej Valley Project, and the estimates of both these schemes have also been exceeded.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : Then all your estimates are bad.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Then Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit recommended that even at this stage the scheme should be abandoned. I do not know, on what basis he has framed his recommendations. He knows that nearly 3½ crores of rupees or even more have been spent, and the scheme can now be completed by spending another 2 crores, and if the honourable member is prepared to write off 3½ crores of

rupees and reduce the capital to 2 crores you can have electricity as cheap as in Mysore.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : How do you think ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : If your recommendation is accepted it will mean that you will throw away 3½ crores of rupees. That is all it amounts to. I have nothing more to say about this scheme except one word. We have now got this scheme practically through. More than half of the tunnel has been built. There are about 5,000 feet of more tunneling to be done and in about two years power would be available. I think the House can employ itself more usefully in finding ways how this power can be profitably utilized.

Chaudhri Zafarulla Khan : You do not seem to know.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan (Ambala Division, North-East, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I rise to support the amendment.

Mr. President : Which amendment does the honourable member propose to support ? (*Laughter*).

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I oppose the whole demand. Fortunately I have been on the spot for a considerable time and have formed an opinion on the facts and figures of the work going on having seen it with my own eyes. First of all I will take up the Kangra Valley Railway on which so much has been said—

Mr. President : Is that a part of the demand ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : That is also a part of the scheme.

Mr. President : I want to know whether it is a part of the demand now before the House.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : The entire demand is before the House and out of that a portion of it goes towards the—

Mr. President : Does any money out of it go to the Government of India ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I mentioned the Railway to illustrate the fact that the money spent on the scheme will involve other expenditure too.

Mr. President : Discussion should be confined to the demand before the House.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : When the Hydro-Electric Scheme was introduced into this House it was given out that it would cost 2.76 crores—

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I rise to a point of order. Does the Railway Scheme form any part of the scheme ? If not, then, how does this come into the discussion ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : This estimate was formed in 1923 and as the scheme progressed it was found that more expenditure would be required and ultimately it was found that the amount of expenditure on this scheme would be 6.25 crores and that the scheme will be completed—

Mr. President : All this has been said before.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : The thing is that when the first estimate has been found to be incorrect what is the guarantee that the estimate now made would be found to be correct ? (*hear, hear*). It will be said that this estimate which has now been prepared has been prepared by other men than those who were responsible at the beginning of the scheme, but I must ask, are these men greater experts than Colonel Battye who undertook to say that the scheme would not exceed more than 2.76 crores. I say that this scheme would surely require more money than this and what is the guarantee that Sardar Sahib gives for seeing that more money would not be required ? Would he still give the guarantee that no more money would be required than 6.25 crores ? If the Honourable Minister for Agriculture is prepared to give that undertaking—

Mr. President : The honourable member must know that the Honourable Minister for Agriculture is no longer in charge of the Hydro-Electric Scheme.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: But he defended it (*laughter*). He has been connected with the scheme for a long period and the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government has just now taken it up and I wonder if he has even seen the spot. (*A voice* : He has been there once.) (*Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang* : Twice). Going there once or twice does not equip one with full facts. I have been there for a long period but I do not claim to have known it fully. But I consulted a great many people of the Engineering Department who said that this scheme in the first place would never be a success and if even they succeeded in generating any electricity that would be so costly that no one would agree to purchase it. The other day it was said by my honourable friend Pandit Nanak Chand that the cost per unit of electricity would be 8.14 pies. Now who do you think would incur so much expense when in the towns here in Lahore and elsewhere the expenditure is less than 4 pies ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : No.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : How much is it then ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I shall tell you.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : When the Honourable Minister does not know he should not interrupt me (*laughter*). A man should be interrupted only when the other man has better information.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is 6 annas a unit at Lahore.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : It is sold at that price, it is not the cost of production.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal : The cost of production at Lahore is 6 pies.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : The question is whether we should abandon it or continue it. When all facts show that it is not going to pay, why not abandon it ? Why go on like a losing gambler who puts on fresh money on other stakes thinking that his lost money would be recovered—

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Let me correct the honourable gentleman ; the cost of production is not 8.14 pies.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : If we are right the Government should abandon the scheme altogether just now instead of after some years after spending 6.25 crores, for I do not think that this Council would ever be prepared to allow the Government more money, but I am sure that with this money this scheme will never be completed and more money will be required and when it is found that this scheme is not paying they will have to abandon it. The fact that a good deal of money has been spent on it is no argument for going further. But if the Government is persistent in going on with the scheme then I suggest that this scheme should be examined by another set of men in the absence of those men who have been working on it from the very beginning for instance Colonel Battye should not be there when these experts examine it and if the examination reveals a state of affairs which can give any hope at any future time of the completion of this scheme successfully or of any dividend being returned, then it can be continued, otherwise it is wise to give it up just now. But I do not agree with my friend Pandit Nanak Chand and Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq that it is not benefitting anybody. It is certainly benefitting a large number of people. Look at the large number of coolies and labourers that are employed there. They all get a living. Look at the great staff consisting both of Indians and Englishmen working there drawing huge salaries. Look at the tremendous amount of money that is being paid to those factories which turn out the various engines and machines and other things required for it. So heavy is the expenditure on these engines and machines and other things that a railway has found to be necessary to carry them there—

Mr. President : I have already stated that the Railway scheme is not a part of the demand now before the House.

Chaudhri Alah Dad Khan : I am just now bringing in new arguments.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Is it not a fact that we have to bear the interest on the railway ?

Mr. President : The question is whether the amount of interest is included in this demand, if it is, then the scheme can be certainly discussed. May I just ask the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government whether the interest is included in this demand ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is included.

Mr. President : There can be no doubt then that it can be discussed.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I am discussing the large expense which is being incurred both on the machinery which is required for this scheme and a part of that money which is being spent on the carriage of that material. That is why I am bringing in the railway. I was saying that it is wrong to say that this scheme does not benefit anybody. It benefits a large number of persons. Look at the huge amount of money which is being spent on the carriage of this machinery and on the production and manufacture of this machinery, lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been spent so much so that the Chief Engineer, Colonel Battye had to be sent to England to

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make purchases of the machinery which was required for this scheme. Anyone who goes to Jogendranagar and further beyond up the hill can see whether he is a layman or otherwise. If the report of the committee that this House appointed to inquire into this scheme is favourable, it should be remembered that this report was prepared when those very engineers who were responsible for preparing that wrong estimate which was wrong by 4 crores were still there, and they supplied all the data. It is a well-known fact that if you prepare an estimate on anything with the men who are responsible for the original mistake on the spot, the revised estimate cannot be said to be quite correct. For this purpose, I say that the scheme should be examined by another expert, in the absence of those men who were responsible for the original blunders. As for the enormous expenditure in carriage of materials to this place, it is still going on and there is hardly a day when something or other is not being carried by the railway. That entails a continuous expenditure and in my opinion the project is either fit for being abandoned now or capable of being examined very closely and minutely so that the officials responsible for it may be held responsible afterwards.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : I sympathise with the honourable members who have criticised this scheme. I am sure that they have been actuated by very good motives and have tried to bring to the notice of the Government what appeared to them to be the defects in the scheme. The question, however, has many aspects. The first question is what is the moral aspect of this criticism. This matter came before the Council many years ago and then by a large majority the Council sanctioned the scheme in spite of the dangers which some members then apprehended and pointed out. If their criticism is now correct and they think that so much money of the province is being wasted on it, who is morally responsible for it ? I am not at the present moment going into the soundness or unsoundness of the criticism which has been made. But proceeding on a pure assumption, who is responsible for this wrong which, according to these learned and honourable members has been done to the province ? If there is any responsibility I agree with the honourable member from Mokal that the responsibility lies with this Council itself. Now to come forward and attack this scheme after so many years when such vast amounts have been spent on its execution is exhibiting the spirit which has been embodied in the verse by the Urdu poet :

کی میرے قتل کے بعد اسنے جفا سے توبہ
هائے اس زود پشیماں کا پشیماں هونا

If really this money has been wasted the Council has been very late in realising it. I admit that I was one of its critics. I have still my views on the scheme itself. But this is not the time to go into that question.

What was done with respect to the examination of this scheme is well-known to honourable members of this House. It was, if I am not mistaken, on the 18th November 1929, that a resolution was passed by this Council asking for the appointment of a committee of enquiry. That committee

was appointed. It consisted of a considerable number of experts under the chairmanship, as is well-known, of Sir Chunilal Mehta, Kt., K.C.S.I., M.A., LL.B., who is believed to be an expert in these matters. The members of this Enquiry Committee were, Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah Khan, M.L.C., Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal, M.L.C., Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh, M.A., M.L.C., Mr. G. V. Lewis, Manager, New Egerton Wollen Mills, Dhariwal, Major H. G. Howard, M.C., Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Development, Madras, Mr. W. L. Stampe, I.S.E., Superintending Engineer, Hydro-Electric Circle, United Provinces and Rai Bahadur Dina Nath, Bar.-at-Law, Chief Minister, Mandi State and a Financial Expert, Mr. B. M. Staig, I.C.S., was appointed as its Secretary. Now, this Committee went to the spot and examined the works which were in progress at Jogindernagar and also at Brot. Some of them in any case went into the tunnel, examined the accounts, the plans and designs of the various works and the net result of their report was that the scheme had advanced so far that it could not now be scrapped. If it was so in 1929 or in the early part of 1930 I think it would be ridiculuous now to argue that the scheme should be abandoned. One honourable member, I think, Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit pointed out that the recommendations made by the committee had not been carried out. He was entirely mistaken in making that statement. The recommendations of the Enquiry Committee were gone into one by one with the greatest possible care with the Minister in Charge, the Secretary of the Department and His Excellency the Governor, and I have got a big file with me which I examined about three or four weeks ago. I went into each recommendation and the reports showing what action had been taken on that and I found that on most of the recommendations suitable action had been taken and those recommendations on which action had been deferred were again brought under examination and I called for a report from the Head of the Department as to what action had been taken on them. That file may not be accessible to honourable members but a *communiqué* was issued by the Government signed by Sardar Jogendra Singh, Minister for Agriculture and Mr. W. S. Dorman, Officiating Secretary to Government, Punjab, in the Hydro-Electric Department on the 22nd July 1930. In this *communiqué* the Government made clear what steps had been taken to carry out the recommendations of the Committee. I would just quote a few lines from this *communiqué*. It will not interest the honourable members if I read out the whole *communiqué*. But it is available to any honourable member who may like to read it. In the course of this *communiuqé* the Ministry stated—

> "An investigation in this direction has led to the conclusion that at the stage o i construction now reached and considering the commitments entered into any postponement would be economically unsoun ."

After this conclusion which was arrived at by a committee of experts as long ago as last year it is really unbusinesslike to ask the Government to scrap this scheme. It may be said that I have been criticising it. No doubt I have been. I found faults with it and I consider that there were faults. But honourable members would probably remember that after this report came out I was from a constitutional point of view really estopped from making any attacks and I made no attacks on the scheme thereafter. After all, what has one to do ? There is the scheme. It was criticised at one

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stage. The Council by a practically unanimous voice asked for the appointment of a committee of enquiry. That committee was appointed. It consisted of the best men available, men of business experience and electricity experts, hydro-electric specialists and consisted partly of members of this Council, the interests of the province being as near to their hearts as they are to the hearts, I believe, of honourable members who have spoken to-day. That committee after as thorough an examination as could possibly be made by a committee of such men arrived at the conclusion that the scheme cannot now be scrapped. Is it then open to any fairminded person who understands what business is, what commitments mean, what the value of time and the value of money is, to say that at this stage, after so many crores had been spent, the scheme should be abandoned ? I would submit it is against the recommendation of the experts.

The question may arise whether the scheme has made sufficient progress so that it would be unprofitable and unbusinesslike to go back upon it. I can only point to page 115 of the memorandum which may be read with advantage by honourable members of this House. There under Major Head 58 Part 2, the progress made by the scheme is described. I have myself been to the spot and I may tell the House that I was very much struck by the progress that the works have made there and by the zeal and energy and devotion with which the officers and men who are employed in the execution of the scheme are carrying on the work under the most difficult circumstances. The first time I went there was in November when the cold season had just begun. The second time I went there was on the 18th of February and I found the whole hillside under snow and the tram line which connects the tunnel exit with the south adit was to a considerable extent under snow, and people, men and officers employed there were working with the same energy and zeal as people in the plains under far more favourable circumstances might be expected to do. And the progress made now I can say without hesitation is very satisfactory. I want to make it very clear, as clear as I possibly can, that the two things should not be mixed up. Even if we assume that to begin with the scheme was a mistake, that should not interfere now with the execution of the scheme. That is the proposition that I want to urge before the House. It is too late now to go into the same question which was before the Council in 1924 or 1925. That stage has passed. We have launched on it and launched on it with the practically unanimous consent of this Council. Now to ask us to go back upon it five or six years after the scheme has been in progress is really putting the Government in a most awkward position and is not worth the dignity of a House like this. Judging from the progress I can say the tunnel is nearly half completed. The other day His Excellency the Governor went to Jogindranagar to perform a little interesting function when the south adit, met the other point. You will be interested to learn that excavation began on two sides so far as this part of the tunnel is concerned from the south and from the west and the two lines of excavation met exactly with a difference of only about 5/32 of an inch. That shows that the work has been executed with very great care and it augurs well for the successful execution of the remaining part of the tunnel.

The lining of the tunnel has been started and a goodly portion has already been finished. A considerable part of the tunnel pipes have been put up. Anchors have been built and a number of pipes have been laid upon them. The foundation of the power house has already been completed and in a short time the power house will be erected there and the turbines installed. Some of the honourable members might also have seen work going on on the other side of the mountain range called Brot where the river which is to bring light, heat and energy to this province flows. Honourable members might have seen also a series of lofty towers between Lahore and Amritsar and between Amritsar and Pathankot. They are a part of the transmission line which has been partly completed. A number of sub stations have already been built or are in course of construction. As an experiment Lyallpur is being electrified at the expense of Government. Other arrangements are already being made to ascertain whether it would be profitable to Government to take the distribution in its owns hands or to employ some other agency for it. Elaborate tariff rates have been prepared and are being examined in the office of the Secretary. When all this is over we shall be able to say how much the project will add to the coffers of the Government. Until this is over it is not possible to say with absolute exactness what the financial aspect of the scheme will be. They are still under examination and the reports have not yet been submitted to me. So far as the cost is concerned, up to this time actual payments have been made to the extent of Rs. 2.34 crores. This amount has already been debited to the project. Then there are liabilities for contracts which have already been placed to the extent of Rs. 67,00,000. Interest which has been paid up to now comes to Rs. 17,00,000, so that the total cost up to the end of February comes to Rs. 3,18,00,000. If the scheme is now to be scrapped what is to become of this Rs. 3,18,00,000 ? Who is going to pay the Government of India from whom we have borrowed this sum ? The Government of India are not going to remit this sum to us. Honourable members who ask us to scrap this scheme lose sight of the fact that this liability has already been incurred. Is the honourable member Pandit Nanak Chand going to pay ? Is the honourable member Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan going to pay ? Is my honourable friend from Amritsar going to make up the loss ? Is he going to share the burden ? (*Interruption*) Who is going to pay this ? If the scheme is going to be scrapped the amount has to be paid by some one. If you are all prepared to pay Rs. 3.18 crores by collecting it among yourselves I shall certainly place before the Government a proposal for the scrapping of the scheme in order to meet your wishes. Are you prepared for this ? (*Interruption.*) Then who will pay the amount that has been spent so far ?

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Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : Who is to pay if the scheme is unproductive ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : If you pay the amount that has now been spent so far I shall agree to abandon the scheme.

Mr. Mukund Lal, Puri : Is it the best that the Honourable Minister can say for the scheme ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I did not hear my honourable friend. Even if my honourable friend agreed to pay off the money—

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Why should we pay ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : You sanctioned the scheme then and you want it to be scrapped now.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : We were misled then.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Is it the plea of the honourable member that he was ignorant then and is wise now ? Is he sure that he has become wise now ? Has he consulted any experts. If so, who are the experts whom he has consulted ? Has he consulted any financiers, any engineers with experience of such hydro-electric works ? Did they tell him that this scheme would not be profitable ? Did they recommend that this scheme should be abandoned now ? Did they say that it would be a waste to spend the balance of the estimates on the scheme ? If he has not consulted anyone how has he made himself sure that the scheme is not any the less profitable than it was four or five years ago ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I never wanted to abandon the scheme. You were not here to hear my speech and you are making a reply to it without hearing me.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : At any rate so many other members have said it. I am very glad that my honourable friend from Amritsar is not for abandoning the scheme. I hardly expect a proposal like that from a gentleman of such business acumen as the honourable member from Amritsar. I certainly would not expect such a foolish proposal from such a wise man. I am very glad that he has assured me that he is not for abandoning the scheme. Then what is he for? If he is for economy he has my sympathy and support ; if he is for Indianisation he has my wholehearted support. If he is for the improvement of the scheme he has my whole-hearted support. I shall assure him that I shall strain every nerve to effect economy. (*Hear, hear.*) I shall do my best to Indianise it as far as possible consistent with efficiency. That, of course, is an important proviso. This assurance I can give to the House without the slightest hesitation.

I shall now come to some of the points raised by the honourable members, Pandit Nanak Chand and Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan. They said that the estimates had been exceeded and they had been varying from time to time. I admit they have been varying from time to time. My honourable friends forget that this scheme is the first of its kind in the province and probably the first in the whole of India. (Sh. Muhammad Sadiq : No, certainly not.) May I ask my honourable friend to point out a single scheme in the country where a tunnel four miles long had to be driven. Let him point out one single scheme. (*Interruption.*) Let me proceed. The honourable member should try to forget his habit.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I admit there has been no such foolish scheme in the whole of India.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Foolish or wise, sound or unsound, there has been no such scheme in the whole of India. I am only referring to the uniqueness of this scheme with a view to show that even the best experts could not know what the final estimate of the scheme would be. They did their best. They went to excavate the tunnel. What did

they find ? Experts thought that they would meet with solid granite rock which they could break up with dynamite and other explosives without any trouble. But unfortunately they were disappointed. I have been inside the tunnel right through and what did I find. I found that water was flowing in streams at my feet ; water was flowing from the top of the tunnel over my head. Water was flowing on all sides. All these things had to be provided against. They dug a little further and found a great deep cavity over the head. They never expected to meet with this. Then they had to grout the whole cavity with cement. That had to be done not in one or two places but in many places throughout the tunnel, both on the Brot and on the Jogendranagar side. Proceeding to the other side they met with similar shingle and soft earth. If they had met hard granite rock I am sure the cost would have been much less. But these are things which no one could foresee.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : Why did they assume that they would meet with hard rock ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : You may say that they were a bit optimistic in thinking that things would not be so bad as they have turned out to be. In this respect the Government did all that any Government could do. As has been pointed out by my honourable friend they took expert advice. Sir Jogendra Singh is not a geologist. Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram—who was the Minister in charge when this scheme was first taken up and who, if at all, should be held responsible for it, although he is now sending amendments for scrapping the scheme and reducing expenditure—he was not a geologist. But the Government consulted the geologists and on the assurance given by them it was assumed that the cost would be so much, that the nature of the rock would be this and therefore the cost of excavation of so many miles would be so much at this rate. Estimates were prepared on the hypothesis given by the experts and the scheme was proceeded with. It is not every scheme that succeeds ; it is not every forecast that comes true. The same thing happened with regard to the rocks at Brot and Jogendranagar. If my honourable friend who moved the resolution in the Council and got it carried had personally gone there and studied the whole question, who knows that the report of the enquiry committee might not have been different and to-day's debate might have been unnecessary ? But he just raises the point and slips away. He has not taken any part in it. He has wislely refrained from criticising the scheme to-day He did not get up to join the critics.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan : If you want him to do that he will do so.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Let him do it if he can. I do not stop him. As was pointed out by my honourable friend, Sir Jogendra Singh, it is not this scheme alone in which the estimates have been exceeded. He has referred to the Sutlej Valley Project where the estimates were exceeded by a very high percentage. I may tell you that sometimes even estimates of domestic occurrences are exceeded. Who can foretell with accuracy ? Sometimes estimates are doubled, so that

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one cannot be absolutely certain so far as estimates of big projects are concerned. It is no wonder that the estimates were exceeded in this case.

My honourable friend Pandit Nanak Chand criticised the scheme on another ground. He said : in the year so and so it was said that the profit would be 16 per cent. then 10 per cent. then probably 6 per cent. and now, I do not know what he said after that, but his complaint was that estimates of returns were diminishing every year. This is a very simple matter, an extremely simple thing and an inevitable thing. If the cost increases the returns must decrease. If you spend Rs. 2 crores and expect a return of 16 per cent. your profit will necessarily go down to 8 per cent. if you spend Rs. 4 crores, other factors being the same. If it goes to 6 crores the dividend or the profit must come down still lower, other factors remaining the same. So, it is not surprising that with an increase in the estimates the profits come down ; that is the natural consequence of the increase in the expenditure.

Then my learned friend referred to the railway. He said that it was a useless expense. He forgets that it is one of the most beautiful railways in the world. It has added to the *raunaq* and importance of the Valley, and it has made the valley accessible to the poor people who cannot afford motor cars and the luxury of travelling by other means.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : Do you contend that beauty is useful ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is useful. It is one of the most potent things, even the most stout hearted people have sometimes succumbed to it. Then, Sir, he forgets one thing. He does not know how many and how heavy articles have been transported from the railway terminus of Pathankot to Jogindaranagar. Who was to carry those things ? (*A voice* : Horses. *Another voice* : camels). Camels ? One hundred camels converted into one and all their strength concentrated into one could not carry perhaps—some of the articles are so heavy—a tenth of them. My learned friends have no idea of the heavy goods that had to be transported from Pathankot to Jogindaranagar. Then they forget that this is one of the best transactions that the Punjab Government has made. The Punjab Government has transported all its goods from Pathankot to Jogindaranagar and will transport what remains to be transported and it has thrown the cost on the Government of India. It is one of the best bargains that the Punjab Government has made with the Government of India. When I criticised the scheme, I said that this was one of the best bargains that the Punjab Government had secured. It has made the Government of India responsible for the cost of the railway and what has it debited to the project ? Rs. 38,000 a year. What does that come to, Rs. 38,000 in terms of interest say at 6 per cent. ? It would be only about 6½ lakhs or less than 6½. Do you think that this has been a bad bargain that on spending the capital value of 6½ lakhs the Punjab Government has got a railway of a hundred miles over which it has transported all its materials worth lakhs and lakhs and lakhs and has transported all its goods. Could even any houses be built in Jogindaranagar if there were no railway of this kind ? This is to say the least, one of the best bargains that the Punjab Government has made and this

was one of the weakest points in the criticism which has been made on the scheme to-day.

Then, we come to the rates of generation. Pandit Nanak Chand was pleased to point out that the rate at which electricity would be generated by the Mandi scheme would be 8.14 pies. He is entirely mistaken and I challenge him to show that he is correct. He forgets that 8.14 is the cost of generation and transmission, and the other rates that he has quoted do not include the cost of transmission. From Jogindaranagar to Lahore there is a distance of 200 miles and 200 miles of high pressure lines means a great deal of money. I am sorry I have not got the figures for this particular part of the project just now with me, otherwise I would have pointed out that the cost runs to lakhs and lakhs.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal : 87 lakhs.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Thank you very much. Eighty-seven lakhs is the cost of the transmission line. Let us see whether this has been a waste and unnecessary expenditure. Let us suppose that a scheme, a profitable scheme, could have been built at Madhopur which I advocated in my criticism of this scheme. Even then we would have had a transmission line of 105 or 106 miles up to Lahore and from Lahore to Lyallpur on one side, from Lahore to Ferozepore on the other side, from Lahore to Ludhiana on another side, and the cost of transmission would have been only less by the cost of the transmission line from Pathankot to Jogindaranagar. So that the cost of transmission is not a negligible factor and if that is excluded the figure 8.14 will be very considerably reduced. The honourable member said that in Mysore electric power costs only one pie. I may point out that I myself sent up a question, I think it was about two years or so ago asking whether it was a fact that the cost per unit in Mysore was only one pie ? I have looked at the answer and I now have a copy of the Administration Report of Madras with me in which these figures are given. The report from which I am quoting is the report for the year 1928-29. At page 3 my honourable friend will find these figures. The figure on which he has relied was only the figure of generation. The figure of generation including transmission comes to 3.32. Now, he will still say it is less than half the estimated cost of Mandi. Perfectly correct. It is, but has he compared the magnitute of one scheme with the other ? You cannot compare the figures without taking into consideration the magnitu e of the two schemes. Small schemes cannot be compared with great. The scheme which we are now discussing is a scheme of a very great magnitute and therefore they had to go to a place where power could be secured in sufficient quantity and as that power according to the experts could not be obtained in the plains they had to go to the hills and when they had to go to the hills naturally the cost was bound to be excessive, much heavier than the cost in the plains as in the Mysore scheme. There are no ropeways, no haulage ways in Mysore: There are no tunnels in Mysore and the scheme therefore is not laid on an altitude of 6,000 feet. In fact one has to cross a range of 9,000 feet high to go to Brot and the river Brot itself flows at a height of 6,000 feet so as to give a fall of 2,000 feet as the water through the tunnel could come to Jogindaranagar which lies at a height of 4,000 feet. So that the comparison between Mysore and Jogindaranagar is not a proper comparison.

[Honourable Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang.]

Then my learned friend said that this scheme had throttled some other schemes. I sympathise with those whose schemes are throttled. Let us look upon the Government as an individual who has launched a scheme of his own. Will you blame him if he does everything which he considers necessary to increase his profits ? If he shuts out competition would you blame him ? This Mandi project can be made to pay only if the whole of its load is taken up. If the energy generated there is not consumed it must always be a losing concern. In order to make it a financial success it is absolutely necessary that all the energy generated by it must be consumed and if other schemes were allowed by Government to be set up—I am just going into the attitude of Government—if other schemes were allowed to be set up that would mean that the number of consumers of energy when it is available from Mandi would be very considerably reduced and the result would be that a great reduction would occur in the profits of Government. So that you cannot blame the Government, looking upon it as a body of men who want to carry on the scheme as a business proposition. I am told that the schemes of many men are not allowed to fructify, but you cannot patronise them and at the same time expect a large dividend from the Government's own scheme.

Then, Sir, as regards the question of Indianisation I have already said that the number of Indians no doubt is not so great as most of the honourable members of this House would like to see. But there are also reasons for it. When the scheme was started a sufficient number of well qualified men was not available then and there, and therefore Europeans had to be employed and once these people get in it is very difficult to make them go out (*A voice* : quite true) but once these people get out Indians will be engaged. It only requires time before the process of displacement can be carried out. When well qualified men are available and when the older people go then Government will make an attempt to replace them by Indians. Government has in its *communiqué* recognised the necessity for engaging Indians. (*A voice* : What has Government done so far to take Indians in this line ?) In paragraph 9 of this *communiqué* Government have referred to this question and recognised the importance of employing Indians due regard being paid to efficiency. I cannot do anything more than give an assurance to this House that so far as it lies in my power no pains would be spared to Indianise this project as far as it is consistent with efficiency and the success of the scheme. If Indianisation is going to take place in other departments the House may rest assured that the Hydro-Electric Department would not lag behind other departments in this respect.

One thing more. It has been hinted that stores are all purchased outside India. I can give an assurance to my honourable friend that since I have taken charge, whenever anything has to be purchased I do my best to enquire, ascertain and satisfy myself that anything required is not available in India before any order is placed outside, and I believe the same thing was done by my predecessor. I am more conscious of this than many other honourable members of this House. I can hardly give a better guarantee.

I should like to say one thing more before I sit down, and that is that the indirect gains of this scheme should not be lost sight of. I cannot better close my speech than by reading a passage from the speech of His Excellency the Governor delivered at Jogindaranagar on the 18th of February. This is what His Excellency said :

> "We mark to-day the completion of a stage in the execution, not only of a great engineering work but in the creation of force; which, we are confident, will materially contribute in future to industrial development in the Punjab nor will its contribution be merely, as I read it material; it has also a contribution to make in the field of moral progress in the satisfaction of national aspirations. All round us to-day in India there is a feeling that the country should not be dependent for the provision of articles which the people require on the resources of supply outside the country. Though some of the methods whereby this feeling seeks expression are in my view undesirable and mistaken, the ideal itself is entirely natural and its consummation on right lines desirable. As I look ahead, I see in the energy that this great work will provide a new and wider field opening up for indigenous industry and creation of power to plough furrows, sow seeds and reap harvests in the broad acres that are at present virgin soils."

With these words I would ask the honourable members of this House to reject the suggestions which have been made by Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit, and others who have spoken upon it and vote for the grant. (*Cheers*).

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,51,33,170 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Hydro-Electric Scheme (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture) : I move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,30,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Civil Works (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

HYDRO-ELECTIC SCHEME WORKING EXPENSES.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : Sir, I move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,53,300 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Hydro-Electric Scheme Working Expenses."

Mr. President :

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,53,300 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course payment for the year ending the 31st March 1932 in respect of Hydro-Electric Scheme Working Expenses."

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit [Hoshiarpur, Non-Muhammadan, Rural]: This motion also relates to the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme, and I am glad I have got an opportunity to meet some of the arguments advanced by the Minister for Local Self-Government.

Mr. President : I cannot allow the honourable member to reply to the arguments advanced by the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government on another motion. The honourable member's arguments must be strictly confined to the working expenses of the Mandi scheme.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Very well, I will not specifically reply to those arguments, but will say that this demand should be thrown out on various grounds. This scheme has been defended on various grounds. One ground advanced so eloquently by the Honourable Minister was—

Mr. President : This argument is inadmissible. The Council has decided that one crore and odd is to be spent on capital expenditure in connection with the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme. The question now is whether the working expenses may or may not be sanctioned. No argument, therefore, which relates to the capital expenditure of the scheme is in order.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I say the working expenses should not be allowed, and that the scheme should be stopped.

Mr. President : As the scheme itself has already been discussed and the capital expenditure required for it has been passed, the question of its stoppage cannot be re-opened.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I am only saying that this demand should not be granted by the Council.

Mr. President : My decision is that as the original demand (capital expenditure) has been voted upon, that question cannot be re-opened.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : The question is not being re-opened. I am advancing arguments to convince the House—

Mr. President : That argument must be confined only to working expenses.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Yes, as to why this demand should be thrown out, this particular demand consisting of working expenses and certain other items such as electrification of Lyallpur, Amritsar and so on.

Mr. President : The working expenses of a scheme are different from its capital expenditure.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I want a ruling as to whether I can give arguments to convince the House why the working expenses for the Hydro-Electric Scheme should not be sanctioned.

Mr. President : Yes. The honourable member is welcome to do so, but he must restrict his arguments to working expenses only.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Suppose those arguments, some of them at any rate, are the same as those that have been advanced against the capital expenditure for the scheme.

Mr. President : I will give my ruling when such arguments are actually advanced.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I put in a remark on the question before the House. As you have pointed out, the soundness or otherwise of the scheme cannot be questioned now. The question whether the scheme should be continued or not at this stage should not be discussed.

He can only discuss whether the staff should be left where it is, and whether it should not be proceeded with, with so many Chief Engineers, so many Superintending Engineers and so on.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I shall stop there and will not go any further. I was saying that we have accorded sanction to the capital expenditure in so far as it is to be incurred next year. But so far as working expenses are concerned, we are not prepared to grant them, and I am giving my reasons for that one by one. That really means stopping the scheme at the present juncture or after spending the amount that has been sanctioned by the House just now. It is my constitutional right to suggest this course, and I do not see how the Honourable Minister can object to my exercise of that constitutional right.

Mr. President : The honourable member will please proceed with his speech.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I will not use the arguments which have been advanced more than once that it is not worthy of the dignity of the House to go on with the scheme, but to throw it out. I shall say nothing of the kind. With regard to the scheme itself, the argument that have been advanced by the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government here as well as on various occasions elsewhere is that it should not be abandoned—

Mr. President : I cannot allow the honourable member to discuss whether the scheme itself is necessary or unnecessary.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I have not yet advanced my argument. I am not going to repeat what I have already said. I am just saying that up to this time we have not heard anything to the effect that this is a profitable scheme. I therefore submit that the working expenses should not be permitted. It has been admitted that the scheme is a profitless undertaking. Government borrows capital at 6 per cent. for this work and the return expected from the scheme is 5½ per cent. Is this, then, a scheme for which we should permit the working expenses ?

Mr. President : Any argument the object of which is to convince the House that the scheme should be stopped is inadmissible.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I am speaking with regard to the working expenses. I have submitted that the strongest condemnation of this scheme is that the Government has to pay 6 per cent. on the capital borrowed for the scheme while only 5½ per cent. is the return expected from the scheme. Therefore the scheme is not a profitable one and should therefore not be worked any further.

Then, it has been stated that there are other schemes which are cheaper and which will give better results—

Mr. President : The honourable member will please confine his remarks to the motion before the House.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : This is exactly my difficulty. I asked you whether when one argument was common to both the motions you would rule out that argument.

Mr. President : I have already said that I will not allow repetition.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I really cannot understand how when a ground is common to both the motions—

Mr. President : That is my ruling, and I hope the honourable member, as a constitutional lawyer, will respect it.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : That means that I should not advance any argument.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban] : Sir, if my honourable friend had only looked at page 401 I think he need not have made this speech.

Mr. President : To which honourable friend is the honourable member referring ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : The honourable gentleman who spoke last. If you kindly see page 401 of this huge voluminous budget estimate, you will find that there are the Lyallpur electrification scheme and the Amritsar Electric Supply scheme for which a sum of Rs. 3,53,000 has been budgeted. We have discussed fully the point whether this scheme should have been adopted or not, and we have discussed fully whether it should go on or not. The House has given its verdict whether right or wrong, that it is impossible to stop it. I want the Honourable Minister to pay attention to what I am going to say. When I last made a speech he was absent, and afterwards he was pleased to attribute to me certain things which I never said and I want that he should not make the same mistake again. It is a fact that this scheme was not looked after properly. I go one step further. In this scheme the Government has promised electricity to Amritsar, Lyallpur and Lahore. But they have started a new scheme for Amritsar and they wanted to have more engines and boilers to give a greater amount of electricity but our good Government came in and stopped them from doing so, saying that they would grant them no more money unless they promised they would buy electricity from us. The result was that the city of Amritsar had to go with less electric power because of the inefficient system of electricity that was brought to use by the Government.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : How ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : For three or four years they held our scheme in abeyance with the result that the suffering of the people was intolerable. There was so much demand for electricity that we had to give connection after connection to people, with the result that instead of having a 50 candle power lamp we had to go on only with a 5 candle power lamp. People had fans, but they would not go for 12 hours a day because they had to cut off the connection for fans to switch on lights. This went on for two years. Then came the day when the Government said, " we will buy electricity from the Lahore Electric Supply Company for you ". Now the funniest thing is this that before the gentleman in charge knew what the cost of electricity would be he promised to sell power to the Lahore Electric Supply Company for 3 pies a unit—

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Absolutely wrong.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : How far then am I right ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : There is no agreement with the Lahore Electric Supply Company.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : With Amritsar ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : With Amritsar there is.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : What is the amount ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal : I think it is at 11 pies.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I think it is 10 pies.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : If the estimated cost is about 7 pies, then I ask if this is a proper way of dealing with the scheme. They buy from the Lahore Electric Supply Company at 10 pies and sell to Amritsar at 14, and again they will sell to the Lahore Electric Supply Company at 7 pies. Now instead of allowing the Amritsar Municipality to buy their own engines and supply their own current they have spent two to three lakhs for taking the line from Lahore to Amritsar. The whole of this material will be useless when the Mandi scheme matures, because Amritsar will take power from Mandi. This is the way of working this scheme. I want an assurance from the Honourable Minister that these things will not happen about the Lyallpur scheme. Something went wrong last year. They promised to sell us electricity, but for 8 months Amritsar was without a proper supply of electricity. There was not enough power available with the result that people had to go without fans in the hottest part of the year. Mr. Puckle was Deputy Commissioner then, and he knows that of the 24 hours of the day and night we could have fans for 6 hours only though the people in the Civil Station were luckier in that they got supply for 12 to 18 hours a day. I want that if such things are going to happen they should put a stop to them with a strong hand. This system should be carried on with a proper control. In a municipality you have 20 members and a similar number in a district board, and it may be difficult to carry things on there but why not have a small committee. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to this point through the Chair. There should be a strong committee both of officials and non-officials to control the whole expenditure, and this House will be satisfied, otherwise there is no use going on like this. People call Mr. Battye, the bungling Battye. I do not know why they do so, probably because both these words sound alike and begin with " B ". What I say is that there should be a committee.

Mr. President : The honourable member has said this three times and that even is irrelevant.

Shaikh Muhammmd Sadiq : Then I withdraw it.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [Minister for Local Self-Government] : I would like to say a few words about this. Some honourable members may be aware that as it is contemplated that the additional supply of electricity to Amritsar should be from the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme, extension was not allowed to be undertaken by the municipal committee and the Government undertook to supply the required amount of power to Amritsar by purchasing it from the Lahore Electric Supply Company. Now honourable members would be pleased to know

[Hon. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]
that the Government is purchasing it at 10 pies and is supplying to Amritsar at 14 pies.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : By compulsion.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Seventeen pies minus 3 pies for punctual payment is being charged to Amritsar. We are not here going into the justice or injustice of the thing, we are going into the purely business aspect of the question. The Government is making four pies out of it. Those who are in charge of it have done well in showing this business acumen. Then so far as Lyallpur is concerned it is an experiment which is being tried. Up to this time it did not pay, but if my honourable friend would take the trouble of looking at page 52 of the detailed Budget Estimates he will find that the Estimates for 1931-32 show a profit, though not a very large amount, still a profit, and that shows that the business which the Government has been carrying on both at Amritsar and Lyallpur is expected to pay. I ask my honourable friend how the loss of 5 lakhs has been caused to Amritsar. I particularly asked him this question but he only said, " Look, there was not sufficient light in the houses and fans did not go for more than 12 hours, and Mr. Puckle who happened to be Deputy Commissioner then must have also suffered owing to lack of electric power"; yet it is not explained how the loss of 5 lakhs was suffered by Amritsar. If anything, something should have been saved by Amritsar for not supplying more power though at a little inconvenience, if the fans instead of going on for 24 hours went on for 12 hours the saving should have been cent. per cent., and if sufficient light was not given there was no monetary loss. There may have been inconvenience, but there was no monetary loss, and the mere fact that something happened at Shahdara to the electric works the Government is not to blame for it. The matter is under consideration, and I would not say a word about it because it is just possible that it may become *sub-judice*. It does not show lack of vigilance on the part of the Government, much as the inconvenience of the honourable member and the other residents of Amritsar is regretted.

Mr. President : Question is—

> " That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,53,300 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st March 1932 in respect of Hydro-Electric Scheme Working Expenses."

The motion was carried.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: Sir, I beg to move—

> " That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,41,200 be granted to the Governor in Council and Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Buildings and Roads Branch Establishment Charges."

Mr. President :

> " That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,41,200 be granted to the Governor in Council and Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Buildings and Roads Branch Establishment Charges."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I beg to move my amendment, Sir.

Mr. President : But the notice of the amendment is insufficient.

Shaikh Muhammmd Sadiq : Then I want to oppose the whole grant. I had sent in two amendments which were put in for drawing attention of the House to certain matters, but these I cannot move. The first was about the Thomason Engineering College, Roorki, for the amount of Rs. 1,44,000 and the second—

Mr. President : The honourable member can oppose the whole demand, but not any specific item.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Yes, but I cañ check the whole items of the demand one by one, and I can give the reason why I am opposing the grant. If you see the whole estimate you will find the reason why I want it to be rejected, and that is this. You will see that it contains an item of Rs. 1,44,000 for the Thomason Engineering College, Roorki and another of Rs. 2,39,200 for the Maclagan Engineering College, Mughalpura. As regards the latter I have not much to say but that complaints have been made that no more than two students of this college upto this time have been given employment out of all those who have passed. If this information is correct it is useless to go on with this college at all. There are already about 40 to 60 students who have passed out of this institution, and we should be thankful if they can obtain jobs in the course of ten years. Certain boys have been apprentices for the last four years, but not a single one has got any job. I think it is much better to abandon this scheme for some years and convert this building to other uses such as for a hospital. It is no use going on with very costly schemes. It is like a white elephant.

5 P.M.

Every student has to spend something like Rs. 125 a month, and when he comes out of the college after spending four or five years at the institution he cannot get even fifty rupees a month, (*An honourable member* : That is the case with all colleges.) I am not attacking the institution for only this reason. I wish to know whether my information and inference are correct. I may probably be wrong. In the case of ordinary education, I mean the Arts, it is the duty of every civilised country to provide facilities, and even if any one from the Arts Colleges does not find himself a job after his course, it will not serve as an argument for closing down the colleges. But different is the case of technical education and technical institutions. If no employment could be found for students who pass out of a technical institution it is no use maintaining it. I wish to know from the Honourable Minister how many students have passed from this institution, how many of them have been able to get jobs up to this time, and what scope there is for the remaining men to get suitable situations.

Next I wish to say a few words about the Thomason Engineering College. There is no doubt that imparting most up-to-date engineering instruction is a paramount duty of a civilised state, but in this case we give a grant of Rs. 1,44,000 for the benefit of, I think, ten or twelve students. Many students go to England ; Government does not pay for their expenses. Many go to Bombay, Government, does not pay for them. Many students go to foreign countries to study law, medicine, and other subjects. So is it

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]
in the case of Engineering and Forestry as well. But does Government pay for any of them? In this instance, when we have so many England-returned qualified engineers at our disposal, where is the necessity for maintaining this costly institution? Money is very stringent now-a-days, and why should we pay for these students for their education? Let those who wish to take advantage of the engineering course provided here pay out of their pockets. I suggest this purely as a question of retrenchment. These students, if they proceed to England or any foreign country will not be getting anything for their expenses from the Government. There are any number of people rich enough to pay for this education themselves. There are plenty of qualified engineers for whom jobs cannot be provided. I am personally aware of half a dozen people who come to Amritsar in search of a job. They have taken famous degrees in England or Germany or America. There is a serious lack of funds for necessary expenditure to-day and we must at the most require one engineer from this college, and we can get a man possessing equal qualifications with foreign degrees without incurring any expenditure on educating such a man. I wish to know what prospects there are for people who come out of this institution and why should we be paying for the education of students there.

It is more with the object of getting information from the Honourable Minister and of suggesting retrenchment under these two heads than with any other object that I oppose the demand.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): I think the honourable member will be satisfied if I give him a very brief explanation beginning with the Roorki College. That College as every one knows has established a great reputation in India, and Roorki Engineers are second to none, so far as their technical qualifications are concerned. In any selection board that meets here the Roorki College men find preference. When the Reforms Scheme was introduced it was arranged that the cost of the College should be met out of the contributions made by the Governments of the United Provinces and the Punjab in equal proportions. It is on that basis, that the Government of the Punjab pays to the Government of the United Provinces Rs. 1,44,000 a year and has the option of sending 15 boys to the college for training every year. The honourable member dwelt a great deal, and I think rightly too, that when there is room for boys to go and get a similar training in England why should Government maintain an institution of its own and bear this heavy cost. As I explained before the cost is for the maintenance of this long established institution. If you look at this matter from another angle you will find that the expenditure is justified. Supposing we had to import all our engineers from Europe, it means paying at least £30 a month as overseas allowance to each. In 30 years that would amount to a lakh and a half for one single engineer. The engineer trained at Roorkee saves you about a lakh and-a-half for every officer recruited. (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq*: How many are taken each year?) Fifteen engineers are trained every year. (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq*: How many of them do you take in the service?) All the guaranteed appointments were given to Roorki engineers. (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq*: How many are there now?) Now there are no guaranteed appointments.

As for the Maclagan Engineering College, the honourable member said that none of the students from that College were able to find employment. I may inform him that so far as the B Class boys are concerned almost all of them have been employed. Out of the A class boys I have not been able to get the exact figure but the Principal read out the report, at a prize distribution the other day, at which the Honourable Sir George Rainy was present, which showed that out of all who have passed very few remained unemployed. Most of the A class boys have found employment either in Government service or under private firms. I think the honourable member is wrong in making that statement. If my memory serves me right I remember that last year at least three boys were given superior appointments in the Railway, and I know I have employed at least two in the Agricultural Department, and there are one or two in the Hydro-Electric Department. The honourable member is, therefore, wrong in his statement that only two boys have found employment so far. I shall be glad to give him the exact figures by this evening showing that out of all the boys that have gone from the Maclagan Engineering College not more than half a dozen or a dozen remain unemployed. I need hardly dwell upon the need for engineering education. Punjab is mainly dependent upon the skill of its engineers. Our Irrigation, Railway and Road Engineers have done splendid work, and if we are going to maintain the efficiency of the department we require fully qualified engineers.

Mr. President : Question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,41,200 be granted to the Governor in Council and the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Buildings and Roads Branch Establishment Charges."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,60,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Mr. President :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,60,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) : Sir, as on the previous demand I had given notice of some cuts here, but as you have ruled them out of order for want of notice, I rise to say a few words in opposing the grant. I shall take a few items, at the outset, to show that Government are putting up very costly buildings. The buildings, are neither satisfactory for Government nor convenient for the people. In this demand is included a sum of Rs. 11,000 for quarters for police officers. I have seen some of the houses built for the police. They are pucca buildings but they are so small that there is hardly even breathing space. There is no use spending vast sums on such pucca construction if the rooms are so tiny and

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]

there is little space. I daresay police officers would feel themselves happier with bigger houses even though they be kuchha. By kuchha I do not mean ramshackle structures but buildings of modern style but less costly than the pucca ones. Such houses can be built with half the cost that is now incurred, and they would cost us much less on upkeep and maintenance. I then refer to the item of Rs. 25,000. A lot of political prisoners have been released, and there will be no necessity for constructing new buildings. There were probably some 5,000 political offenders confined in our jails. Nearly all of them have now been released and, therefore, there will be no necessity for building extra wards in jails. The present type of jail buildings is absolutely useless. They are too much exposed to wind and rain, and in the cold days the political prisoners felt it very difficult to manage. I am sure my requests will not be lost on the Honourable the Minister. Government, I trust, will improve the design in respect of jails and the police. It is no use for the police officials to have the honour of living in pucca houses when they feel the insufficiency of space so keenly. Though built of ordinary material, the houses should be roomy.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture) : The Public Works Department only acts as an agent in these matters, but I shall bear what the honourable member has said in mind and bring it to the notice of the administrative department concerned.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,60,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (RESERVED).

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,900 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Civil Works (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,95,400 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS (RESERVED).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member): I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,08,600 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Miscellaneous (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Minister for Education): I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Capital Outlay on Industrial Development."

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,40,400 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Industries."

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,66,700 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Agriculture (Transferred)."

Mr. President:

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,66,700 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Agriculture (Transferred)."

Mr. E. Maya Das (Nominated Non-official): Sir, I beg to oppose the entire grant to discuss a small matter. I want that Government should make some provision for encouraging people to invent time and labour saving devices especially in the Department of Agriculture. Any amount from Rs. 5,000 upwards might be set apart for this purpose so that people who have the knack to invent such things may be encouraged by means of prizes and grants to do the work. I am sure whatever money Government spends in this direction will bring them an ample return.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: I entirely sympathise with the object of the honourable member. We have already a provision and what is more, I may say that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has also a scheme of giving rewards for specific purposes.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 49,66,700 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Agriculture (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Minister for Education) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,03,300 be granted to the Governor in Council and the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Medical (Reserved and Transferred) and Public Health (Transferred)."

Mr. President :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,03,300 be granted to the Governor in Council and the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Medical (Reserved and Transferred) and Public Health (Transferred)."

Mr. E. Maya Das Nominated (Non-official) : I beg to move that the whole grant be rejected. I want to draw attention to a small matter which is found at page 297 of the Budget Estimates. There are 34 District Medical Officers of Health and 5 Assistant Directors of Public Health. At present, so far as my information goes, not one of these posts is held by a Christian. I bring this to the notice of the Government so that when the next vacancy occurs if a Christian with the minimum qualifications is forthcoming his application may be considered.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Sir, I may tell the honourable member that the claims of the Indian Christian Community is always receiving my best attention.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,03,300 be granted to the Governor in Council and the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Medical (Reserved and Transferred) and Public Health (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Minister for Education) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,64,81,800 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Mr. President :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,64,81,800 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Sardar Buta Singh (Multan Division and Sheikhupura, Sikh, Rural) : I want to oppose the whole grant with a view to draw the attention of the

Honourable Minister to a glaring injustice done to my district, the Sheikhupura district. Two or three days ago he said that he was very keen on the education of girls. I am sorry to say, that though Sheikhupura has recently been made the headquarters of a district it requires development all round and particularly in the matter of education. I do not see any provision in the Budget for a Girls' High School at Sheikhupura. This is a crying need of the district and I hope the Honourable Minister will do his best to provide means somehow or other for a Girls' High School in this district, and do justice to the people of Sheikhupura.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I heartily appreciate the feeling of the honourable member on the subject. If I had the money I would put a girls' school at every tahsil headquarters. As far as we are concerned we have proposed to provincialise one girls' school during the next year. The Director of Public Instruction has invited three local bodies to come forward with their applications and Sheikhupura is one of them. The sooner the honourable member rushes back to his place and expedites the application the better for his district.

Mr. E. Maya Das (Nominated Non-official) : Sir, I wish to oppose the whole grant—

Mr. President : If the honourable member's object is not to oppose the demand but simply to draw the attention of the Government to certain defects, he should have given timely notice of a nominal reduction.

Mr. E. Maya Das (Nominated Non-official) : Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Council the very big question of physical training of girls. I have recently read in a newspaper the report of a committee and its decision is that the education of girls should come first and that of boys second. We want not only that our girls may be educated but, Sir, that they should be physically fit. We very much stand in need of physical instructresses and there is a reference on page 268 that a grant is going to be made to the Young Women's Christian Association to meet the cost of employment of physical training instructress. That is a part-time instructress which in my opinion is altogether insufficient. We require not only one whole time instructress but several whole time instructresses. It may be said that, since a beginning has been made, we might be patient for a time and see the result ; but I just want to draw the attention of the authorities to the fact that the provision made is very small indeed.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan (Ambala Division North-East, Muhammadan, Rural) : I oppose this grant on the ground that primary education has not been made as general as it should have been. The Primary Education Act was passed a long time ago but if you go to the villages you will find the same hopeless condition of illiteracy among the zamindars as existed before the passing of the Act. In the first place it has not been applied generally. Wherever it has been applied they have made no provision for schools. A school exists in one village and the procedure is that boys from a number of neighbouring villages come to it. Imagine a small boy of 4 or 5 going to a distant village to attend school in the rainy season. Then the money which has been spent on other great projects should have been spent in the first instance on the establishment of numerous primary schools. It is a great reflection on the Education Department that although the Act

[Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.]

has been in operation for a considerable period, primary education remains where it was. Primary education should be made as general as funds can allow. Instead of that intermediate colleges have been established in a number of localities. The result is that only boys in the town benefit by these colleges, and only a very small number of zamindar boys go to them. In fact when they cannot get primary education how can they go to colleges ? Primary education is the stepping stone to higher education and if the zamindars' boys cannot get primary education they cannot go in for higher education. The result is that the city people alone can make use of the intermediate colleges and the zamindars remain as ignorant as ever. The proper thing would be to establish primary schools in every village.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: The honourable member may be interested to know that a committee is sitting now with regard to primary education.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: I want to say that primary education should be as general as possible, so that in every village where there are 200 inhabitants there ought to be a primary school.

Mr. President: The honourable member may move a resolution to to that effect.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: I want to say that Government should not try to establish more high schools ; besides intermediate colleges are hopelessly—

Mr. President: The honourable member has said this several times.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: The Government College at Lahore serves no useful purpose (*laughter* and *hear, hear*). There are more colleges for Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs than they require. What purpose does this Government College serve ?

Mr. President: The honourable member may move a resolution that it be closed.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: I am pointing out the defects—

Mr. President: Such defects should be pointed out when the honourable member is opposing the whole demand.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: I said in the very beginning that I was opposing the whole grant by pointing out these defects which exist in the educational system of the province.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: But how does the honourable member propose to remove these defects by opposing the whole demand ? You cannot throw out the Government College.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: This Government College at Lahore should have been abolished long ago. It serves no useful purpose. There are so many colleges—

Mr. President: The honourable member is repeating his argument.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: The honourable members interrupt me and I have to resume the thread of my argument. They must take the reponsibility for interruption.

Mr. President : The honourable member should not be interrupted.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : If so much money has been spent and no good result has come out of it then the whole demand should be opposed in order that a better Budget may be prepared and the money spent more usefully, so that zamindars may benefit from it and not merely the towns-people.

Mr. President : The honourable member has said this several times.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I am going to oppose this demand for various considerations. The demand contains a grants for colleges, and schools and grants to local bodies and the pay of inspecting staff. I propose to discuss this grant under these various heads. First of all, Sir, we come to the colleges. The colleges maintained by the Government are extremely expensive institutions. If you will compare the expense of the Government College with that of colleges run by private bodies, you will find that in some cases the expense of a Government College is double and in some cases it is three times as much. If the Honourable Minister had ever cared to compare the results he would have found that these Government institutions do not compare favourably with those which are run by private bodies. I submitted, Sir, when the scheme was first launched in 1924 that there was no use opening all these colleges in various parts of the province. I maintained and along with me a number of gentlemen who were sitting on the opposition benches then maintained that if any community felt that it was backward in collegiate education the proper thing to do was to make grants to that community so that the institutions may be run on economic lines and also that the community thus should be able to evoke that sense of patriotism, that sense of management and that sense of organisation which is essential for the growth and development of public spirit in the community. That was one of the reasons which we advanced for the postponement, in fact for not carrying out the scheme of opening intermediate colleges. We were unfortunately outvoted but we find that the scheme has gone to such a length that every Minister opens a number of colleges in places where he happens to have a—

Mr. President : Does the demand under consideration contain any provision for opening a new College ?

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : There is a demand for maintaining them.

Mr. President : The maintenance of existing colleges is different from opening new colleges.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I am reviewing the whole history in order to convince the Council that the colleges have produced no good results, and therefore this grant should not be made and it should be stopped. On the other hand I am going to make a definite proposal, if you will permit me to proceed. That, I submitted, was one of the grounds why we opposed the opening of these colleges. Then, Sir, the second point which I urged then and which I urge now for not allowing this grant to the Honourable Minister is that they are really expensive institutions and Government should call upon the various communities or public men belonging to the various communities to form educational boards and to cut down the pay

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of these high salaried officials who are principals and professors in the various Government Colleges. A mere glance at the figures of pay to members of these colleges and to members of private institutions will convince you that we have been spending money very lavishly without taking into consideration the fact that the province is burdened with extraordinary expenditure and that we are at this time face to face with a very serious situation. I urge upon the Government this necessity and I ask the members of this Council to consider whether time has not arrived when these various colleges maintained by Government in different parts of the province which are run in a very expensive manner, whether the time has not come when this sort of education should be curtailed.

I made bold to prophesy at that time that these colleges which are being scattered far and wide in the province will one day create a problem which Government will have to face very seriously and that was the creation of a large number of educated young men without finding an opening for employing their energy. I said that the educated unemployed will be a very serious problem for the province, and my prophesy made some years ago is coming out true. You have got in the country a very large number of educated young men who go from door t · door without knowing what to do. The result is that on various occasions they are led into mischief and a very grave political problem has to be faced to-day. They have not been given any vocational training, they have not been given any industrial training nor have they been given any technical training. The result is that a large number of educated young men are thrown into the market and they have created a problem which the province has to-day very seriously to consider- It has got an indirect bearing on the life of the province. You have to employ a large number of police to look after the activities of these people. Is it not a serious problem with which the province is faced ? Are we not indirectly paying for that education in various ways by having additional police and by spending a large amount on education which does not produce proper results ? Are you not really giving a sort of education which is not needed by these young men ? I ask Government to take into consideration this very serious situation. Up to this time we had no tangible proof to bring before the Government for stopping this kind of activity undertaken in a light mood in order to satisfy the communal appetites of the various communities.—I am not referring to one community alone. The problem isso serious, the expenditure so enormous and unemployment so great that the time has arrived when Government must tackle this problem very seriously. It is no use boasting of your soldiers and sepoys and so on. The time has arrived when we should take care of these young men. It is a very serious problem and I call upon the Government Members to give it the very serious attention that it deserves. The time has arrived when these so-called liberal colleges must be closed and in their place vocational institutions should be started. We had sometime ago what was called the Unemployment Committee. That Committee made certain recommendations, but nothing was heard about those recommendations. The Government has all along slept over the Committee's report. Similar will be the fate of the Retrenchment Committee and practically of all committees which have got no real power in their hands. I

therefore appeal to the Honourable Minister for Education that he should not seek the sanction of this Council to an expenditure of money for the maintenance of these educational institutions. I know that he is labouring under a difficulty. These colleges have been handed over to him by other Ministers. I am not blaming him for that. But the problem is there and he must face it. My friend who has just sat down, Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan, said that the Government College here should be closed. I join with him in this view. The professors here are very highly paid. Even the professors in Oxford and Cambridge do not draw as much salary as these professors do. As for their work, they have very little to do. Compare the results of the Government College with those of other colleges run on cheap and efficient lines. It is not merely for the sake of opposition that I have got up to speak. In this matter I feel very strongly that the time has arrived when these young men, hundreds of thousands of them, should be very properly looked after by the Government. It is the duty of the State to look after the welfare of these young men and provide means for their livelihood, so that they may not be going about preaching all sorts of false ideas about politics and so on. I feel it as one who is interested in the education of one's own children. I regard them all as my own children. I shall give an instance which will go to the very heart of the honourable members. A few years ago—I think it was two years ago—a student studying in the LL. B. class came to me and asked me for food and said that for the past six days he had had no food and that there was nobody to support him and that he had to go from door to door for food. This is the problem of young students. The question is : Are you going to tackle it or not? Are you going to throw year after year hundreds of these young men into the broad market without finding any work for them ? This is the problem arising from the collegiate education which I want the Education Minister to take into consideration.

Then, comes the provision made for the various high schools, high schools which are provincialised. The Honourable Finance Member blamed me for being pessimistic, and said that I do not look things in the face. But I am of opinion that unless you have a very rigid economy you cannot meet the present situation. When there was a very large amount at our disposal caused by the relinquishment by the central Government of the provincial contribution which came to over one crore and taxation which also came to more than a crore, this House did not care to see how this money was spent. At that time so far as the grant for education was concerned, school after school was provincialised. They were taken over from the local bodies, from the municipalities and district boards, and these schools were run on expensive lines. High salaries were paid to teachers and the expenditure on these new schools knew no limit. Is it not reasonable for an honourable member to say that you did mischief to the province in two ways (1) by increase of expenditure and (2) by really putting down the spirit of sacrifice, the spirit of managing institutions, the spirit that taught the people self-reliance and self-help, by taking away this local enterprise from them. Why should Government have been burdened with the work which local bodies—municipalities and district boards—should have themselves performed ? True, some of these institutions were not run in an efficient manner, but one cannot very well learn to be efficient unless one knows how to make mistakes. The

[Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit,]

Government should have allowed the local bodies to learn by their mistakes. This is another cause from which the province suffered, that is by the policy of what is called provincialisation of schools. It is a policy which stands self-condemned. It stands self-condemned, because, as I said, it has really taken away local enterprise from the hands of these local bodies. I say in all seriousness that the Education Department really did wrong to the country by increasing the expenditure and by taking away local enterprise from the local bodies. It is time that this policy is reviewed by the Government.

Then, there is a third point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House and for which provision has been made in the Budget, and that is the inspecting staff which is paid very high salaries. We have got first of all the Divisional Inspectors. Because you have got Divisional Commissioners, therefore you must have Divisional Inspectors. (*Interruption.*) It has come down from time immemorial, but you have added on certain other inspecting agencies which did not exist before. What is the work of the Divisional Inspectors ? Has anybody ever cared to scrutinise and see what is the main function of a Divisional Inspector ? Fortunately or unfortunately I am connected with a number of educational institutions. The Divisional Inspectors sit down there to criticise. If a Divisional Inspector belongs to community *A*.—I will not say Hindu, Muslim or Sikh—and if he inspects a school belonging to community *B*, he will try to put every obstacle in the way of that school. This practice has been going on for the last eight years, and times out of number I have had to go to the Director of Public Instruction in connection with this practice. The Director of Public Instruction has always given us a patient hearing, but what can he do ? One result of the highly paid inspecting agency has been that education in the province has really stopped. Instead of encouraging the opening of new schools and promising help of every kind, these Inspectors only put obstacles in the way of progress in education. The Inspectors have gone out of their way sometimes and have stopped schools because they did not possess palatial buildings just as the Government schools or some mission schools had. These are facts which I want to bring to the notice of this Council. It is necessary that this policy should be reviewed. The main function of the inspecting agency has been not to increase education, but to criticise people for bringing into existence a large number of institutions. One other thing they do is to dispense patronage. A good deal of patronage is in their hands and the results of that patronage are writ large on the educational history of this province and I need not repeat them here. Besides the Divisional Inspectors, there are the District Inspectors of Schools and Deputy Inspectors of Schools and Assistant District Inspectors of Schools. What is all this heirarchy of inspectors ? Have you ever heard of such a heirarchy in any civilised country. The attempt, as I said the other day, is to create posts,—to put it very bluntly—so that members of various communities may be satisfied. I can understand Government multiplying the number of teachers and educational officers to help education, but the way in which these things have been carried out shows that the object is not the promotion of the cause of education. There is a limit beyond which the resources of the province cannot be taxed. The time has arrived when

we should make a protest against this system. One can understand the multiplication of Naib-Tahsildars, Tahsildars, Extra Assistant Commissioners and so on, but one cannot understand the top-heavy administration in the Education Department. The real object has been not to spend so much on the education of the people, but to take as much money as possible from the various sources to be spent on officialising the whole educational system. That is the very negation of democratic institutions. You should not officialise education. You should give every possible encouragement to different kinds of institutions. As educational experts I expect these Inspectors to start educational institutions on different lines. Can the Honourable Minister point out to me that during these years there have been diversity in the method of education ? Go to any European country which boasts of good system of education. There you will find various kinds of institutions imparting education in various methods and on different lines. But the educationists here have chalked out one model of education everywhere and that model is being followed without any use to the country at large. That is the state of affairs to which we have been reduced because the education system has been diverted into what is called the official line and not the educational line. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government that the time has come when the Government instead of following the present policy should send our young men to Eurpean countries to study the various systems of education so that they may introduce them in our province. Have the Government sent any deputation to European countries and to America to study the various systems of education ? Every advanced country has been sending its men to various places to see and learn from the systems of education prevalent in other countries. Nothing of the kind has been attempted here. I ask honourable members in all earnestness whether this kind of expenditure should not be stopped and whether the funds could not be diverted to other more important needs. We have then got the problem of primary education.

6 P.M.

At this stage the Council adjourned till 2 P.M. on Tuesday, 10th March 1931.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 10th March 1931.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock.

Secretary :—I have to inform the Council of the Honourable President's unavoidable absence from the Council for half-an-hour. The Deputy President will preside in the meanwhile.

(*Deputy President then took the Chair.*)

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(CONCLUDED).

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED)—*concluded.*

Mr. Deputy President :—The Council will resume discussion on the following motion :

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,64,81,800 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March, 1932, in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit (Hoshiarpur, Non-Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I had just begun my criticism yesterday with regard to compulsory primary education. Well, Sir, so far as the members of the Council which had preceded this Council are concerned, they were very keen that primary education should be introduced in the province at an early date. I remember to have moved one rupee cut in the third Council and that cut was carried in the House. Then Sardar Ujjal Singh moved a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee to go into the question of compulsory primary education, in pursuance of that resolution a committee was appointed by the Honourable Minister who was then in charge of this portfolio and that committee is making enquiries into this all important question, namely, the question of compulsory primary education. But I wish to warn the House with regard to certain matters which are bound to crop up in connection with the introduction of the compulsory primary education in this province. One is a very important question of finance. I am afraid that any scheme which may be put forward, whether by this committee or by the House, is bound to fail if proper amount of money is not found by this province for the carrying out of that scheme. So far as the financial condition of the province is concerned, at the present time there is no chance of there being any reduction in the expenditure of the province and the province would be face to face with one very big problem, should there be an additional taxation in order to carry out this scheme of compulsory education ? I want the honourable members of this Council to take note of this fact that if they are very anxious to have compulsory primary education introduced at an early stage it would be absolutely essential to cut the educational budget in such a manner

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that a large amount may be saved from this educational budget and spent on the compulsory primary education or the province must be prepared for further additional taxation. Otherwise any scheme that may be put forward by the best educational experts is bound to fail and cannot succeed. The question that remains then is this. Is it not our duty to see that educational grant made by the Government and passed by the Council is spent in such a way that we have the best use without spending too much and it is with that object that I would request the Honourable Minister for Education to review the budget in the light of criticism that I have already made with regard to other matters, namely, expenses on collegiate education, secondary schools and inspecting staff. Connected with this is the problem of finding teachers. We at this time do not have sufficient number of teachers. The countries which have considered the question of compulsory primary education and have introduced this compulsory primary education have found large number of lady teachers or women teachers to run their primary schools and thus they have been able to solve this all important problem. Unfortunately we have got our female education in this province in a very backward state. The question would naturally arise as to how we are going to find this large army of teachers which would be essential for carrying out any constructive scheme of compulsory primary education. Unfortunately in the budget I find that provision for the education of women is not sufficient. Even though it may be much more than what it used to be in previous years, still it is not sufficient for the purpose. You find that in order to carry out this scheme of compulsory primary education the education of our ladies is absolutely essential. I would, therefore, request the honourable members of this Council to throw light from the various points of views as to how this additional expenditure which would come to 40, 50 or 60 lakhs or even a crore a year, is to be met. This is a very important point and I wish that the honourable members who are interested in this all important subject should throw some light on the question of finances that would be needed. That would very much help the committee that is sitting. Is the province prepared to bear additional taxation? Are the people ready? Are they so awakened to the need of education that they would welcome this additional taxation if it is ear-marked for this particular purpose? These are questions on which I would request the honourable members to give their views freely before this Council. And if it is not done and if they are not prepared, for additional taxation, then the other alternative is that you have to cut down your educational budget in various other branches so that money may be saved from these branches and spent upon this particular matter. Then, Sir, I would suggest to the Honourable Minister one or two economies which can be easily introduced in the province. One is the question of libraries and laboratories. You find in this province, in Lahore itself, a number of colleges, each college has its own library and its own laboratory—a thing which is not to be found in Oxford or Cambridge. There is one University laboratory and all colleges whether belonging to one denomination or other use that laboratory which is maintained by the University. Here you have got a laboratory maintained by the University which is not open to colleges, like the Islamia, D.A.-V. or Dyal Singh. All these have to spend

large amounts of money in order to maintain their own laboratories. Government College has got its own separate laboratory. So, I submit that in order to save all this expenditure there should be one big laboratory open on one day to one college and on another day to another and so on just as the system is in other advanced countries. In a poor country like India you cannot ask the D. A.-V., the Sanatan Dharm or the Islamia College to spend large sums to maintain laboratories of their own, because that money also goes from our pockets in this way that sometime grants are made to the University and we have also to make grants to different colleges. This is an essential matter of economy which can be made at once. Look at the Lyallpur College of Agriculture. There is also the intermediate college. Both have to maintain a separate laboratory. What a waste of money ! The poor much-taxed Punjab peasant is made to pay for running all these various institutions, when the province should have managed with one laboratory in each place. This is an economy which can be effected at once. Similarly these remarks apply to libraries also. There should be only a small library for the use of the professors in the colleges and the University library should be open to all the colleges just as their own is open to the use of the students. These are some of the grounds on which I would ask the Council to throw out the budget if the Council is so minded. I will now for a few minutes consider some of the objections brought forward by my friend the Honourable Minister in reply to my speech at the budget time. I made a suggestion that there should be no intermediate colleges maintained by the Government. The Government should make a grant to private institutions. Let a grant be made to the satisfaction of the communities if they are able to run colleges. This is the criticism and the reply made to this criticism by the Honourable Minister was that he is not in favour of communal colleges because they tend to increase communal tension in the province. I welcome this mentality of the Honourable Minister and I think a great change in the mentality of the Minister has come if this is the real object in maintaining these various colleges, but then at the same time I would request the Honourable Minister to make no sort of communal difference in the Government colleges in the matter of admission, etc., because the moment you introduce the communal principle in the Government colleges you are again face to face with the same problem. I maintain that if the Honourable Minister is ready to put down communalism in any shape or form, then I welcome the change on his part, but if this is only an argument to meet my argument, then I submit that that argument should not appeal to the members of this Council and I say that communal colleges maintained by different communities do not create so much tension as the colleges maintained by Government where admissions and distribution of posts are made on communal basis. I would very much welcome this change in his attitude but on the other hand I maintain that if these communal colleges are run in proper lines, for example, if a college is maintained by Hindus and a guarantee is given that it will take Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, all without asking them to undergo a religious course, there should be no difficulty in maintaining that institution. (*Interruption*). The Oxford University consists of colleges maintained by various denominations. There we find that now not only men of one denomination but various kinds of people, people of various nations can go and read there. Germans, Indians and

[[Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.]

people of various religions read there and they are not asked to go to their chapels and subscribe to their religions. There are no Government colleges in Oxford. And there is another method of doing away with this communal tension. Supposing the Government colleges were to be abolished, there is no better way of utilising the building than to have it as a club for all the students of the various colleges. There will be a library and a reading room to which students from various colleges will have access. This will enable them to forget that they are Hindus, Sikhs or Muslims. Such an institution exists in Oxford where there is a great Union which trains politicians and statesmen who fulfil great functions in the public life of Great Britain. The professors may become University professors. Another thing I do not see the justification for is, why should the benefit of the lectures in the Government college not be made available for students of other colleges. When the money on the Government College is contributed by all of us, why not students of the other colleges be permitted to attend lectures there. In Oxford and Cambridge we find a similar method prevailing. For instance, a student of the D. A.-V. College or the Islamia College should not be forbidden from these lectures and that is the way in which a cosmopolitan spirit will be created in the students' minds. We should take a leaf out of the book of the advanced nations. Here you find the professors and students of the Government college living like cloistered monks not coming in contact with the hard realities of the present-day life. I submit that economy in this matter could be effected, communal tension could be removed if only the Education Minister is so minded. I am sure he will bring to bear upon this problem new light and a broader outlook and will not countenance any kind of communal policy which honourable members on this side or that or elsewhere would like him to pursue. It daily pains me to see question after question put by some members as to how many posts are held by Muslims, how many by Hindus and how many by Sikhs. Education is the one matter where a broed outlook is needed and a long view of things is necessary. Unfortunately for us we find a totally different state of affairs. Surely when the other nations are showing us the path of advancement and progress it is high time that the Punjab takes the lesson from them. I should like to ask the Education Minister whether the time has not yet come when he sho uld send a few educationalists, experts, round to study the educational systems of various countries, so that we could have the benefit of their advice and make the necessary changes in our present system of education which I submit is an old one devised years and years ago which is now not needed by this province and the country at large. It is important that the Education Minister should make some efforts at devising a new system of education. My remarks, I trust, will show to the House that there has been great extravagance, great waste in this department and the time has arrived when we should do something to change the course of education in the right direction.

Sir George Anderson (Director of Public Instruction): I am in a somewhat unfortunate position in rising to speak this afternoon, and for many reasons. In the first place, the Education Minister moved this grant yesterday afternoon and I had hopes that it would have been passed before the House adjourned last evening. But at about twenty minutes to six

my friend from Hoshiarpur rose to make a speech, and he was still speaking at the time when the House adjourned. I have had the privilege of being a member of this Council for many years and of having had as a colleague in this Council my friend from Hoshiarpur. I have enjoyed listening to his vigorous speeches, and he will agree with my contention that I have been a very good listener because I have usually been in my place when he has risen to speak. But I must admit that I was a little disappointed with the speech which he delivered yesterday afternoon. (*An honourable member*: He was only wasting time). I am coming to that.

During the periods when I have been on leave. I have been accustomed to spend much of my time in watching cricket, a game to which I am passionately devoted. It is not infrequently the case that a man goes to the wicket a little before the close of play, and it is often obvious that his main object is to play out time in order that on the next day he will be able to resume his innings. I had similar feelings when I listened to the speech of my friend yesterday evening.

I am in another unfortunate position. The Honourable Education Minister had hopes similar to mine. If he will allow me to say so, he somewhat incautiously replied to a speech that was made by the Deputy President and is, therefore, precluded from speaking at the conclusion of this debate with the result that the responsibility of doing so has fallen on my most inadequate shoulders. I am also in difficulty in that the proposal before the House is whether or not the total Education grant should be passed. Therefore it is not easy to decide what is the exact issue as speeches have traversed a wide field. However, I shall do my best.

The first speech was made by the Deputy President. I shall merely reiterate the advice that was given to him by the Honourable Education Minister, but I would add that for many years I have had a very warm corner in my heart for the district of Sheikhupura. It may be that this is due to the fact that my dear little friend, Mr. Barry, now alas dead, was for many years Deputy Commissioner at Sheikhupura. I shall always remember the happy days which I spent in his company at Sheikhupura, when I saw him joining in the games and sharing in the joys and sorrows of the boys. I can assure the Deputy President that we shall do all that we can to assist the needs of that district.

Then there was my honourable friend, Mr. Maya Das. He rose to oppose the education budget because he desired, and in my opinion rightly desired, to raise the very important question of physical training for girls. In particular, he referred to an item in the budget by which a grant is given to the Young Women Christian Association in return for the part-time services of a physical training instructress. I agree with my honourable friend that we should try to do more in this respect. But I would remind him that, not on one but on many occasions during the last few days, this Council has unfurled the flag of economy and retrenchment. I, therefore, fear that there is little chance at present of his wishes being accepted. I would ask him to take consolation in the old saying that 'half a loaf is better than no bread'; and I would assure him that as soon as the finances have improved, the Education Department will do all that it can to provide him with more food in the shape of at any rate one full-time physical training instructress.

[Sir George Anderson.]

I now come to the speech of my honourable friend over there. I was in some difficulty in following his speech, partly because the honourable member seemed to be in perpetual conflict with the Chair. I understand, however, that he was referring to the important subject of primary education. When I went home, I regretted the tragedy that I had not found it possible to follow the remarks of the honourable member. I thought long over that tragedy, and then, at last like a flash, an idea came into my mind by which that tragedy can be averted. This Council is aware of the fact that, in accordance with its recommendation, Government has appointed a committee to consider the problems of compulsory education ; and there are many important members of this House who are serving on that committee. There is the great exponent of advance, my friend Pandit Nanak Chand from Hoshiarpur ; there is my friend from Lahore who is opposite ; there is Mr. Labh Singh from Gujranwala ; and there is our friend, Sardar Ujjal Singh, who has just returned from his laborious holiday in London with the Round Table Conference. I shall doubtless be voicing the wishes of these members when I tell my honourable friend on their behalf that they will be only too delighted to hear his views if he will repeat them to that committee. It may be, indeed, that they will place a whole day at the disposal of the honourable member in order that they may gain full benefit from his great wisdom and his varied experience.

I now come to the speech of my honourable friend from Hoshiarpur. As I have said already, I listened to him with much interest, but with some disappointment. He has placed before himself, and he has striven to place before this House, two great ideals, two great principles. The first is an ardent desire for economy ; the second is a burning hatred of communalism. May I suggest to my honourable friend that in his future speeches he should try to observe a third important principle, consistency of argument ?

In the first place, he recommended, if I understood him correctly, the closing of Government College. In this proposal he has not been consistent. When he spoke about schools and when it suited his argument, he dilated at length on the necessity of having a variety of educational institutions, and he urged that our schools should not be all of the same pattern. But when he discussed colleges, he apparently cast aside this advice and contended that parents should not send their children to the college they desired, but to the college which the Pandit considered to be good for them. This, of course, is a very sound bureaucratic principle, but not one which will commend itself to members of this House. It seems to me a pity to close that very college for the admission to which there is far greater competition than there is for all the other colleges put together. This consideration indicates that Government College meets a great demand made by the people of this province. Does it not seem a pity, again, especially in these days, to close a college which in the past has provided training, and I submit good training, to most of our leaders in public life to-day ? Among those leaders I include the leader of the Pandit's own party, Raja Narendra Nath, whom we are all so glad to see back in his place to-day.

The Pandit has also forgotten the post-graduate studies, which is a matter of some importance. He has not told us how provision will be made

for post-graduate study if the Government College is closed. Is it his intention that post-graduate study should be handed over to the tender mercies of the University ? If that is the case, then he has forsaken his second principle, because I wish to know whether the Pandit considers the University to be a model of economy.

Then, my friend has spoken about examination results. There was a question in this Council the other day, which the Honourable Minister for Education answered. I took some trouble in preparing the draft answer, and obtained much information from the University office. I am glad to find that in practically every examination the results of the Government College are immeasurably superior to those of any other college.

There is another aspect of the proposal to which I shall refer. I can speak only from my own personal experience, but I cannot but think that my experience is similar to that of many others. I often wonder, for example, how my honourable friend from Amritsar feels after spending a good day in this Council. As for myself, after I have spoken for half-an-hour, I suffer from acute physical exhaustion. Are we then right to expect these professors to give continuous lectures hour after hour and day after day ? If we do so, then I fear that their lectures will lose that imagination, that stimulus, without which they will be of little value.

The honourable member next spoke about the inspecting staff, and I listened to his arguments with much interest but again with considerable apprehension. I shall only deal with a few aspects of this important problem, and as briefly as I can. At the outset, I would express astonishment at his remark—he will correct me if I have misunderstood him—that there is no civilised country in the world which has such a top-heavy administration, which has such a varied staff of inspectors and such a large number of inspectors as the Punjab. I presume that my friend will agree with me that England is a civilised country. I have here a book which may be familiar to my friend, the Raja Sahib ; and with your permission I shall give a few figures. In England and Wales there are 34,000 elementary and secondary schools ; in India there are 200,000 primary and secondary schools. In England and Wales there are 6,000,000 pupils ; in India there are 10,000,000 pupils. But whereas in the whole of India there are only 27 educational officers including those working in all the provincial headquarters, in the Board of Education alone there are 65. Therefore, there is at any rate one civilised country in the world which has a larger staff of educational officers than the Punjab ; and I assume that there are many others.

Had time permitted, I should have liked to elaborate my theme that a well-qualified inspectorate should be regarded as an economy and not as an extravagance. As I survey the educational system of India, I am saddened by the waste, by the ineffectiveness of that system ; and our results in the form of literacy are disappointing in comparison with the money and effort that are spent on them. We have to bear in mind the irregularity of attendance, the inefficiency of many of the teachers and so forth. It is surely right that we should be vigilant, that we should supervise the work to the utmost of our power.

There is yet another aspect to which I would allude at somewhat greater length in connection with the inspectorate. During the course of this

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debate, there has been frequent use of the words, "democracy, constitutional government." These political questions make an irresistible appeal to me. Many years ago I used to deliver dull and unimaginative lectures on political science and administration to patient and long-suffering students in Bombay; and since my transfer from the academic unrealities of the lecture hall to the stern realities of this Council, my interest in these subjects has deepened. I, therefore, listened with very great interest to the discussion which took place a few days ago between the Honourable Finance Member and a member of this House as to whether or not a democratic form of government is expensive; but as I have been nurtured from my youth up on the pure milk of Gladstonian Liberalism, I am prepared to accept the expense in return for democracy. What, then, is the essence of a democratic form of government, of a constitutional form of government? The answer to this question can be summed up in the one word, "responsibility."

The subject of discussion in this debate, Mr. President, is whether or not the education vote, should be passed, and I hope that the vote will shortly be passed. Before proceeding, may I remind the new members of this House that this Council has great traditions; and one of those traditions is that throughout a long period of 10 years or more, it has never refused an education demand. I trust that this high tradition will be continued in future. *(Hear, hear)*. I am also tempted to make a passing remark as to whether or not the total budget is adequate—I have much to say on that subject—but I am deterred from doing so by the close proximity of the Finance Secretary. *(Laughter)*. My main contention, however, is that with the passing of this vote a great responsibility will have been placed on the shoulders of the Education Minister, but if the inspectorate is reduced to any marked extent it will be impossible for him to carry out that responsibility. I wonder what members of this Council, after having voted about Rs. 1,75,00,000, would say if on some future occasion the Education Minister got up and said in answer to honourable members' questions: "I regret that I have no information as to how this money has been spent: I have no idea whether it has been spent wisely or not." I would ask how the Education Minister is to carry out his responsibility unless he has an adequate inspecting staff at his disposal.

I now come to a matter which I have reserved for the end. My honourable friend has spoken at some length about our policy of provincialising schools and of instituting intermediate colleges. He has referred to the relation of these colleges to the difficult problem of unemployment. I have much sympathy with what he has said. He has referred to the work of the Unemployment Committee and I feel proud that he has done so, because I had the privilege of being chairman of that committee for a few months until I was transferred to another province and consequently had to resign the post. I can assure my friend that I appreciate very much that, in my opinion, is a most valuable report. I can assure him also that we are diligently reading that report and that we are trying to consider whether any, if not all, of the numerous suggestions cannot be carried out.

My friend also suggested that there are too many schools and colleges, too few professional colleges, too few vocational institutions, industrial

schools and so forth. Once again I have much sympathy with what my friend has said, and I would wish to have heard from him a great deal more about this important matter. But, surely, my friend is aware, as this House is aware, that expenditure on these institutions is not included in the Education Budget. Industrial schools, for example, are provided for in the budget of the Industries Department. And my friend will admit that when this vote was moved by the Minister in charge he did not rise to contribute any remarks ; indeed, I understand that he was sipping his tea outside. He thus missed a great opportunity. I hope that next year he will give us of his wisdom and experience as to how the industrial schools can best be developed.

Again, I understood him to suggest, though he seemed to qualify his views in the final sentences of his speech, that Government colleges should give way to communal colleges. Yet again is my friend guilty of inconsistency. In the past he has made the rafters of this Council hall ring with his angry denunciations of communal representation. It is not for me to discuss that vexed subject, but it seems strange that one who denounces communal representation so strongly should at the same time be a whole-hearted supporter of communal institutions. (*Hear, hear.*) My friend has also raised the question of economy. On that point, we are all agreed, with the exception of my friend, Mr. Maya Das, that economy is our watchword. It is probably true that a communal college is cheaper to maintain than a Government college : but is my friend prepared to guarantee that there will be only one communal college in the future ? Is it not probable that instead of one there will be many communal colleges ? (*Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit*: Why not ?) Why not ? Because we are all ardent supporters of economy.

(*At this stage Mr. President occupied the Chair.*)

Finally, I wish to make an appeal to my friend and to those who think with him. I hope, Mr. President, that you will permit me to narrate one of the most precious reminiscences of my life : and I can assure you that the narrative is relevant to the point at issue.

Bombay, with its harbour, is a place of great beauty ; and that beauty is enhanced in the months of September and October when the monsoon mists give way to an exquisite clearness of the atmosphere. One evening in the month of September or October 1914, I was sitting on a beautiful lawn overlooking the harbour. I was admiring the beauty of the scenery, but my gaze was attracted by a remarkable, indeed a historic, spectacle. I looked at the 62 ships stealing out of the harbour, silently and two by two ; and on those ships were our soldiers on their way to the war-stricken fields of France. We all felt anxiety in one form or another, but my anxiety was mainly as to whether those ships would ever reach Aden. The Emden and other German ships were lurking about outside the harbour, eager to pounce on any straggling ship. I had occasion to meet later the Admiral who had been in charge of the convoy ; and I explained to him my anxiety. He replied : "My anxiety was a hundredfold greater than yours, because whereas some of the ships moved very swiftly, others could scarcely move at all." I replied, "Admiral, I understand then that the speed of a fleet is regulated by the speed of the slowest ship." The Admiral replied : "That is so : and that is the cause of my anxiety." It is in the spirit of this

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reminiscence that I would make my appeal to my friend from Hoshiarpur. As the speed of a fleet is regulated by its slowest ship, so also is the progress of a province regulated by the progress of its most backward community, and of its most backward area. I hope, therefore, that my friend will not criticise lightly the efforts which have been made—poorly worked out if you will, but none the less sincere efforts—to provide educational facilities to them that are far off as well as to them that are nigh.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,64,81,800 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Education (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (RESERVED).

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,95,600 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Education (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

POLICE.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,71,100 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Police."

Mr. President :

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,71,100 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932, in respect of Police."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan) Urban] : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the total grant be reduced by Re. 1."

My object in moving the amendment is to urge that no punitive police be imposed unless the people of the place are given full opportunity to place their case before the Government and to urge that the suggestions made by Mian Ahmad Yar Khan in his resolution be carried out as far as possible. Up to this time Government has been imposing punitive police on villages which were supposed to be *badmash* villages. There is no doubt that there are certain villages which are inhabited by certain criminal tribes or by people having criminal tendencies. There it becomes absolutely necessary for Government to have some sort of control, but my object in moving this cut is that some kind of system should be established which would give a chance to the people of the villages to show that the demand made by the executive authorities is either wrong or frivolous. As far as I know at present when punitive police is imposed on a village they are

never called upon to show cause why the punitive police should not be imposed on them. You will find that in individual cases under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, a man is asked to show cause why he should not be bound down or why a security should not be demanded from him, but in the case of a whole village where sometimes as many as 2,000 people are involved, they are not given any opportunity to place their case before Government. In fact they are not even made aware of the fact that punitive police is going to be imposed on them. I do not want to run down the whole police force nor do I want to take the names of individual officers but those who know something about the police administration know what a lot of hardship people are made to suffer at the hands of the police. We know what happened at Thana Tharu during the recent Congress activities. The police went there and beat several villagers most severely at night. Then the police opened the mouth of a *sahukar* and the police officer spat in his mouth. The Bar Association of Amritsar appointed four or five members of the Association to go and make enquiries into the matter. The committee examined about 70 or 80 witnesses and with their own eyes they saw thirty or forty men who had been very severely beaten by the police, and they saw any number of *lathi* marks on their backs. If Government is going to impose punitive police it should be done only with a view to check the activities of *badmashes*, and it should make such rules that it becomes impossible for the police to beat people and it should become impossible for Government to impose restrictions on any number of people they want. There should be some fixed rule. There should be some sort of judicial authority which should see whether it is right or wrong to put additional police in a village. Sometimes it happens that the thanedar gets angry with certain men of a village. He reports them to the Superintendent of Police and naturally the Police Department goes to the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner has to act mostly on the advice of the thanedar. The result is that many times the police is imposed on people who have annoyed the thanedar. The police is very hard on the people and they suffer great hardship. In village Tharu there was not a single man who was on the side of the police. In fact all the foodstuff was taken by force. That may be a stray case, but all the same wherever such police is posted there should be some regulations to control the posting of punitive police.

Then, Sir, Government should appoint a special inspector to go to the places where punitive police is imposed and see that no wrong is done, or else Government should order a Superintendent of Police to pay occasional visits to these places and see if there is any complaint made by the inhabitants of the place. I am not going to talk about the hardships suffered by the political minded people during the last eight months, not because they were thieves or dacoits, but because they were carrying on the Congress propaganda and the civil disobedience movement. This is the first time in the history of the Punjab that police has been imposed on people who were carrying on certain political activities. Up to this time the police was only imposed on people because they were not of good character, and I would request Government to be more careful in the case of people who are politically minded. The country has changed a lot during the last twenty years and with the change of times we must also have a change of methods. We must not treat those who are carrying on some sort of

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political activities in the same manner as we treat those who commit dacoities or lift cattle. It may be that a certain kind of political propaganda is not desirable, for, sometimes they do all sorts of things under the cloak of politics, all the same we should discriminate between this kind of activity and criminal activity. I do not say that the system should be abolished altogether, it must remain for *badmashes*.

If you look at Mian Ahmad Yar Khan's resolution you will see that he urges the Government for a definite plan. He says if a punitive police is to be imposed the villagers should be notified and after the notification, time should be given to them to come forward with any objection that they may have. Those objections should be considered by the Deputy Commissioner or some judicial officer, but certainly not by an executive officer as is done in the case of individuals. After all it amounts to giving a bad name to a whole village and that simply because some villagers have got into the bad books of a Sub-Inspector. If it were a matter of an individual or of a family it would be different, but by putting a punitive police in a village you give the whole village, sometimes a big village containing as many as 2,000 inhabitants, a bad name. Sometimes *chaukis* are put even in mandis. The Rohtak Mandi is a case in point. The people of that Mandi are not thieves, they are not dacoits. Their only fault was that they were carrying on political propaganda. If they are doing any harm, prosecute them: if they have committed any political crime, prosecute them; if they have committed any riot, prosecute them. But do not bind a whole mandi down because their political views are different from those of the Home Secretary or of the Finance Member or of the Deputy Commissioner. This is a pernicious system, and it is not followed even in countries like Peru or Chille where you find revolutions going on, and where to-day there is one President and to-morrow another. Not even in those countries is this kind of system followed. A man has a right to have his own political views, but if he commits any crime the law courts are open. They can bind people under section 108 which is very freely used and under section 144 they can stop public meetings. But it is not proper to punish whole localities simply because they have certain political views, be they the followers of Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Shaukat Ali, Sir Muhammad Shafi or Pandit Malaviya. If this system remains, then in future the Government in power will try to impose its own ideas on that section of the population which holds different views. Supposing after eighteen months when the new reforms are introduced we have a coalition government and supposing this system is allowed to flourish. The result will be that the coalition government will impose a *chauki* on any village which has voted solidly against the Government and which has been carrying on propaganda against that Government. That would be strangling all political ideas, which is absurd.

I am not going to say one word which would be out of place or out of tune with the present conditions when truce has been proclaimed, but I do urge, and urge very strongly, upon the Finance Member to review the position. He should not throw away this request of mine because it has come from the opposition benches. I would request him to weigh the whole question and see how far he can go. After the reforms this sort of system

is bound to go. It cannot work under modern democracy. He should for the present at least remove punitive police from places where it has been imposed for political purposes, and in the case of non-political cases he should frame rules which would cause no unnecessary hardship.

3 P.M.

Mr. President: Demand under consideration, amendment moved is—

"That the demand be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns, Non-Muhammadan, Rural]: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Government to one fact, and that is this, that perhaps economy now can be effected in the police budget. When the police was recruited at the time of the Congress which was to be held at Lahore—

Mr. President: May I point out that now the amendment of the honourable member from Amritsar is before the House and not the original motion?

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal: I shall then speak to the main motion when it comes up for discussion.

Mr. M. A. Ghani [Non-official nominated]: So far as the question of placing punitive post is concerned, Government may be justified in placing it where the conduct of the people is not desirable. But I know of one place in the Punjab where the punitive police has been imposed not because the conduct of the people was not desirable, but because the Government wanted to show authority over the people. That place is known as Khewra, where there is a big salt mine and about three thousand miners work there. All the people who inhabit that town are employees of the salt department. There is a long controversy between the Punjab Government and the Government of India as to whether those people are under the Government of India or under the Punjab Government. So the Punjab Government wanted to show their authority and they have placed for the past one and-a-half years a punitive police. My humble submission is that the Government was not at all justified in placing a punitive police there. If the Government had called on the people to show cause why a punitive police should not be posted there, I think the people might have shown good cause that their conduct was not undesirable and there was no need for placing a punitive police there. I know that the punitive police was posted there because there were three or four thefts committed in that little town of Khewra, and it was proved by the people of that place that the thefts were not committed by the inhabitants of that place but by the inhabitants of the outlying villages. On account of those three or four thefts, the whole town has been punished with the salaries and with the expenses of a big punitive police. These miners draw no more than 15 or 20 rupees a month, and they have been forced to pay the expenses of the punitive post. It is a great hardship to them. I have requested the Government so many times to withdraw the punitive post, but to my surprise the time limit has been extended by another year. That means to say that the people will have to pay the expenses of the punitive police for two years. I hope that the Government will take the grievances of these poor people into consideration and before putting a punitive police there will call upon

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the people of that place to show cause why it is not desirable to place punitive police there. With these few words I support the amendment.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik [Finance Member]: Sir, I should like to answer the honourable member from Amritsar very briefly. In the first place I would like to point out that he is wrong both technically and in essence in describing these posts as punitive police posts. The actual expression employed in the Act is ' Additional Police', and it should be clearly understood that this extra force is posted not as a punishment but because the misconduct of the inhabitants has been of such a nature that the ordinary police is not capable of coping with it, and that additional police is required to cope with them. It is not fair that the tax-payer should have to pay for the misconduct of one particular small section or one particular locality ; and it is therefore the practice—and the practice is sanctioned by the law—that the inhabitants of that locality should themselves pay. But it is misleading to describe these posts as punitive posts, because punishment is not the object. The object is the prevention of crime or disorder.

Now, the honourable member's main point is that the people on whom the additional post is imposed should have an opportunity of showing cause against the imposition of the post. I submit that such opportunities already exist and are freely employed. I do not think the honourable member is correct in saying, as I think he said, that punitive police posts can be located in a village without the inhabitants knowing anything about it. I do not believe anything of that kind has ever happened or could happen. The inhabitants invariably have ample warning and ample opportunities of representing their side of the case, opportunities which I may say they frequently exercise. In many cases to my personal knowledge they have used their opportunities with such good effect as to lead to the withdrawal of proposals for the imposition of punitive posts. One such case occurred in my own time in a village or small town called Jaijon in Hoshiarpur, where the local officers submitted that the misconduct of the inhabitants was such that an additional police post should be imposed. The matter was gone into and it was decided that the inhabitants should be warned that if their behaviour did not improve a police post would be imposed. Their behaviour did improve and so no post was placed there. Another case that happened two years ago was in a village called Baliali near Hansi in the Hissar district, a village notorious for cattle-theft. In a single year the number of big thefts in that village was no less than 74. It was decided that it was necessary to impose additional police there. But the villagers submitted a petition before orders were passed by Government, asking to be given an opportunity of reforming the bad characters and showing a clean sheet. That opportunity was given and the villagers did reform the bad characters and so no additional police was imposed. These are two concrete instances in which the villagers were given opportunities and where they used the opportunities to such effect that they succeeded in getting the posts withdrawn. No doubt many other similar cases have occurred. I would not have the House assume that proposals for the location of additional police depend entirely on the word of the local police officers. No proposal is ever ent up o Government until it has

been carefully examined not only by the local police officers, but by the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner of the division, and it is very carefully examined, when it reaches Government, by the Home Secretary and by myself and also by the officers at the head of the police administration. The honourable member suggested that certain police posts had been imposed on villages or towns in consequence of their taking part in the political movement. I do not deny that. The conduct of certain localities during the civil disobedience agitation did lead to the imposition of additional police. But I deny altogether that the cause of that was that the inhabitants held certain opinions. Far from it. There was no case in which police posts were placed unless there had been widespread defiance of the law, and in nearly every case serious and repeated assaults on the police by the inhabitants of that place. In nearly every case, I said, serious and repeated assaults on the police by the inhabitants of the village were the reason why additional police were posted. In the case referred to by the honourable member I can assure him that serious assaults were committed on the police and the Sub-Inspector was grossly insulted. (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq*: It was after the imposition). No, before. When the police visited that village to arrest the offenders, great opposition, forcible opposition, was shown and the people actually arrested escaped from lawful custody. That was not at all a happy instance to choose. Altogether during the course of the last year I think that police posts have been imposed in some 10 or 11 cases. In three cases, namely, the town of Ludhiana, the town of Sheikhupura and the adjoining villages and in Rohtak Mandi, orders have been already issued for the withdrawal of the police posts. Nine other cases are under consideration; and if Government is satisfied that the causes leading to the imposition of these posts are now absent they will be glad to withdraw them. The honourable member who represents labour mentioned the case of the small town of Khewra in the Jhelum district. I have no personal acquaintance with Khewra. I have only visited that place once, and the police post was imposed certainly long before I took charge of this department. But according to my information Khewra is notoriously a most criminal village, and its figures of crime amply justify the imposition of the additional police. I think the honourable member must have received his information from a person who is not wholly disinterested.

Mr. President: Demand for grant under consideration the question is—

"That the demand be reduced by Re 1."

The motion was lost.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns, Non-Muhammadan, Urban]: Sir, I rise technically to oppose this grant. I use the word technically because my intention is to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the police force in the Punjab now can be reduced. At the time when about 530 men in the police force were recruited when the Congress was being held in Lahore we were assured in the Finance Comimittee that as soon as the emergency ceased the police force would be disbanded. Later on, on account of the civil disobedience movement in the country the Government thought that the continuance of this force was

[Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal,]
essential in the interests of the province, and the police force was allowed to be continued. Sir, it is a pleasure that the Gandhi-Irwin agreement has been signed, and it has produced a calm atmosphere in India and the Punjab—

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : And in Bombay too.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal : Yes, the War Council in Bombay has been dissolved to give effect to the agreement, and I submit that it should now be the duty of the Government to take this fact into consideration and reduce the police force in the Punjab, at least that part which was recruited at the time when the Congress session was held in Lahore. Another fact which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that now a good deal of police force is being utilized for controlling traffic on the roads. My submission is this that perhaps the military people, because some of them I saw, can now regulate and control it, therefore a number of police force can be reduced on that account and expenditure on this head can be reduced. These are the two suggestions which I want to make for the consideration of the Government, and I hope that the Government will give serious consideration to them and will see that the strength of the police force is reduced.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan (Ambala Division, North East, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I rise to oppose the whole demand. The doings of the police have been repeated *ad nauseam* by everybody, and I believe in this Council too. But the police continues to be as demoralized as before, and it is fair that I should draw the attention of the Honourable Finance Member in charge of this portfolio to the grave and serious defect in this police force. First of all I will take up the way in which they carry on investigation in criminal cognizable cases. As soon as a cognizable case is reported at the thana the man at once goes to the spot of occurrence and the first thing he does without much enquiry is that he calls a number of men who he thinks are suspected of the theft or other cognizable offence. By this means, a large number of people are detained than are necessary or are concerned, in the offence, and it very often happens that the real man is detained and the other men are allowed to go after wrenching some money from them. This is a most fruitful source of corruption among the police force and everybody who reads the *zimnis* of the police investigating officers can see it for himself that in the *zimnis* are entered those men that are kept and detained without suspicion, but are let off ultimately. Nobody asks them why they were detained for so many days, nobody ever enquires for how long a time they were kept at the place where the investigation was going on, nobody enquires what was the evidence for suspecting them and what was the evidence for afterwards letting them off, and all these things are known to officials working in the district and to every official of the Police Department. This is a fruitful source of corruption, but it has not been checked, and this is a great slur on the police force. There are some vigilant Superintendents of Police who know and many of them check it in the beginning because when the *zimni* reaches them they ask why these men were detained without any evidence, and if the officer lets them off without challaning them then the Superintendents of Police take exception and take action. But in

order to avoid this these subordinate officials of the police resort to the expedient of challaning them before the magistrate, but teach the witnesses not to depose against them so that they can get them acquitted there, and some of them go farther and take them to the court of sessions and there teach the witnesses not to depose against them. Now, when this state of corruption and demoralization exists, I think the official controlling this force should have taken effective steps of bringing good morale into the police force. The honourable members of this House may be aware perhaps, many of them are of the "moonlight night days" and "dark night days." These are the technical terms known to the police. The fact is that some of the subordinate police officers collude with thieves so that they can commit as much theft as they can during the dark nights and so much of the spoils which they bring would be given to the officer. These are called "dark night days" and the man makes payment at the end of the month for the "dark night days," and it sometimes happens that these thieves and robbers commit dacoities during the moonlit nights and for these they get much smaller amount. Now when these things are going on I think no greater charge of corruption can be laid at the door of any other department than that. But that has been going on and has been brought to the notice of the officer controlling the police force but nothing has been done. That is a very sad state of affairs. If a man or a woman dies on account of any accident, that is another fruitful source of income. I give you an example. The other day in the Ambala district a man died as a result of an accident in a sugar crushing machine. His dead body was lying there. He was a Hindu—

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member in order, while opposing the whole grant, in going into these details about which he has not given any notice of an amendment. He is making vague allegations which it is impossible for us to reply without due notice, and I am sure he is not in order in attacking the police for corruption and bribery on the basis of his personal experience, although I admit that he knows or ought to know something about these malpractices.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Why should I not expose the doings of the police?

Mr. President : Generally speaking, a whole demand is opposed with the object of securing an economic reduction. If the object is to ventilate a specific grievance or to criticize the Government or its officers, a nominal reduction is often moved. However, there is no objection to questions of policy being raised in discussing or opposing a demand as a whole.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : The reason why I am giving these details—I would have given more but I now resist from doing so—is that these things may be checked. When such abnormalities can be committed then their promotion and advancement to higher posts should be a matter of great consideration, and this will not only save a great deal of money but will improve the morale of the police force. For this [illegible] I urge that a great consideration, should be shown to these matters. As to their work during the political movement everybody is aware of what they have done (*hear, hear*), but they have neglected their ordinary duty and crime has increased and thefts and murders have become more frequent—

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Murders of policemen ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Murders of people. Policemen were murdered in a very small number. A certain dacoit made himself a terror in the Rohtak, Karnal and Hissar districts, and it was a slur on this force that he was not arrested for a very, very long time. He was responsible for no less than 62 murders, and was a terror to these policemen. They never went to arrest or to defy him. He was many a time seen standing openly in a forest near the village, but these people though they were waiting in the village nearby did not have the courage of going out to arrest him. When their morale has been so much demoralized there ought to be some consideration for curtailing not only their—

Mr. President : The honourable member is arguing that the demand under consideration should be reduced ; while he got up with the set object of omitting it altogether.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I have already said that I oppose the total demand.

Mr. President : But what the honourable member is saying is that the promotion of certain police officers should be stopped, that some of them should be punished, and that some saving should be effected. These arguments are clearly for reducing and not for omitting the entire demand.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : That is only a supplementary argument by way of supplying the reason why for such a force this Council should not vote any supplies but should refuse the grant entirely. They have failed to discharge their duties properly ; they are behaving every day so badly and are failing every day in the discharge of their duties. With these words I oppose the grant.

Pir Akbar Ali (Ferozepore, Muhammadan Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I have risen to oppose this grant not because there is corruption prevalent in the Police Department, but because its members are inefficient to cope with the duties that are entrusted to them. Corruption is rampant in all the departments of the Government, and I don't want to make it the basis of my opposition. Police Department has become the monopoly of the people living in the urban areas, and they lack the mettle that make men able to brave dangers. The urban people cannot show courage when placed in circumstances that require boldness and bravery. On the other hand, the zamindars are brave, bold and hardy, and therefore most suited for the police department. They can face all dangers without showing any signs of fear. A Police Superintendent once related to me an incident that happened during a police raid. He told me that once when they were trying to capture some dacoits who were armed with rifles, the police men belonging to a certain class hid themselves behind the bushes, but those belonging to the other class (villagers) remained in the open facing the bullets that were fired at them. The policemen belonging to zamindar class incurred all the danger, while the policemen who were mainly town people remained hiding and did not leave their shelter until the danger was over. From this you can guess what chicken-hearted your present policemen are. The zamindars ought to have been recruited in such departments that require bold hearts and robust bodies. Instead of the zamindars who are by nature most suited for the police department you have recruited to it people from the

towns and cities, and that is the one reason why so much calumny hangs over your police and police officers. You ought to have placed the people from the urban areas in the clerical departments or other such departments that do not require executive ability or courage. Since the Police Department mainly consists of urban people, the Government is facing difficulties at each and every step that it takes to suppress crime.

One objection that is often raised against the recruitment of the zamindars to the Police Deparatment is that they are incapable and inefficient. I ask, are they incapable even for the posts of sergeants, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors ? Do all these posts require very high literary ability ? The Police Department is the only department for which the zamindars are most suited, but they are not allowed to enter service in it. They are rather forced to learn other crafts for earning their livelihood. By increasing the zamindar element in the police much of the corruption will be stopped for they are simple people, and do not know how to play tricks upon the Government or the people. They will work hard and honestly, and will thus win a fair name for the department. If you want to remove the blot of infamy from the Police Department recruit zamindars to it. By their presence in the department generally the police will become honest and upright. This will largely help the Government in strengthening their position. By all this I do not mean that the whole Police Department is demoralised. There are many people in it who are very honest and diligent, but they are very few. I hope that the Government will very kindly accede to my request and increase the number of zamindars in the police. With these words I oppose the grant now before the House.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit (Hoshiarpur, Non-Muhammadan, Rural) : As my friend, Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal, observed, this is really a technical opposition on the part of various members, but it is a constitutional right which we, with your permission, are going to employ to the very full.

I rise to oppose the demand in regard to police on various grounds. One of them has been stated by my honourable friend who spoke last, namely, that the police force is not up to the mark. I do not agree with the reasons advanced by the honourable member for that conclusion. I feel that the lack of competency is most displayed in the lack of detective ability. For detective ability nimbleness of brain is needed more than anything else. Cleverness and intellect more than physical force is needed.

The idea of having a police force is not merely for the maintenance of law and order when a scuffle between citizens takes place, but one of the primary purposes is the detection of crime, the finding out from various indications the criminals in cases of robbery, dacoity, theft and the like, tracing them out. And the House will agree with me when I say that for this purpose it is absolutely essential that they should be men who are educated and well-trained, nimble in brain, men whose abilities are developed to such an acute degree that they follow the slightest clue and detect the actual offender. I find, and it is a thing which has been stated on the floor of the House on various occasions, that crimes have been on the increase in this province. I leave out of account political crimes, but non-political crimes have been increasing. (*The Honourable the Finance Member*: Since when ?) Since the last ten years, it has been increasing day by day. (*The Honourable the*

[Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.]

Finance Member: No, only last year.) Murder, theft, dacoity these are really on the increase, and it really shows a lamentable state of affairs, a woeful want of competency on the part of the police. I can give a personal example. In my house at Hissar about 15 years ago there was a theft and the police failed to detect the culprit. Similarly, Sir Muhammad Shafi's house a few years ago was burgled into and many things were stolen ; the offender is still at large. Rai Bahadur Pandit Shiv Narain met with a similar fate, and the offenders have not been traced. Instances from various quarters can be multiplied which go to show that the police staff lacks very much in detective ability. and therefore it is essential that they should be trained in Scotland Yard or in other suitable places. So long as this training is not given, so long as men of intelligence are not employed, so long as men with education do not control the department in all its ranks, constables, head constables and sub-inspectors, the police will remain as incompetent as ever.

I wish to bring to the notice of this House one or two facts which were given to me by a very respectable and responsible gentleman. He told me that there had been a number of cases which had been got up by the police in order to punish political offenders. They came before the courts, and the result of the trial before the court was that the court censured the conduct of the police. As one instance of this I may mention the case Crown *versus* Sardul Singh and Pandit Shyam Das. The latter is an old gentleman from the Hoshiarpur district. They were charged with rioting and being members of an unlawful assembly. The case was tried by Mr. Vishnu Bhagwan, Magistrate, and he found that the case was started by the police in order to hide the actual state of affairs, that being, that they, the two accused, had received beating at the hands of the police. Another case relates to the Sheikhupura district which was tried by Sardar Bishan Singh. I refer to Crown *versus* Atma Singh and others. The magistrate found that the case was a false one, and it was really due to the highhandedness of the police. Similarly the important case of Pandit Santanam and others where these people were called from a *chubar* where they were sitting and were taken hold of and tried and sentenced. But the High Court set aside the conviction and held that they had committed no offence. Instances of this kind can be multiplied which show that the police are not doing the right thing at the right moment.

There is one more important matter to which my honourable friend, Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan drew the attention of the House, and that is corruption in police ranks. Unfortunately corruption is not only confined to the police but is to be found in all services, and I think here the Council ought to co-operate with the Government in putting down the evil. Whenever this question has been brought before the House, I have taken a line rather different from the one adopted by the orthodox opposition, namely, that it is the duty of all of us and of those who are high in social status to put down corruption by outcasting men guilty of it. What we should do is that when a thanadar or an inspector or some other official has been making large amounts of money by robbing the people, we and men of our social standing should not give our daughters in marriage to their sons. On the other hand we treat them with feasts and dinners. Government alone without the help of the people at large cannot put down corruption. Gov-

ernment can only help. The corrupt officials should be regarded as social outcasts. We know that corruption is eating into the vitals of every service and consequently they are becoming inefficient. I can speak from personal experience of men who will like to bribe the High Court Judges if they could. They say : can we bribe the judges ; will they accept what we are prepared to offer ; and so on. Even an ordinary peasant litigant has come to believe that he cannot get justice, cannot get things done, or cannot get the protection that is his due, unless he bribes some official. That is a very rotten state of affairs. The Council should co-operate with the Government in devising ways and means for rooting out this canker of corruption. The whole province is groaning under this. We want to put down this corruption, but we are helpless as it is deeply rooted and is practised on such a large scale.

These are some of the suggestions that I have to make with regard to the police. I would respectfully beg of the Finance Member to give us an assurance that he would do his outmost to reduce the police force in view of the peace that has come about between Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi. These are two God-fearing men who have saved the country from strife and ruin. We hope that there will be absolute quiet and peace in the province. Undoubtedly I do not agree with the Honourable Finance Member when he said that the movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi is responsible—

Mr. President : May I ask the honourable member to speak to the question ?

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : I am coming to the argument that the existence of the terrorist movement is no ground for maintaining the police at the present strength. The Honourable Finance Member said that so long as the terrorist movement existed he could not reduce the police force. But in this matter I have observed that the more you increase the police force the greater is the number of criminals and crimes. In any district if the political offenders are not touched there is not much chaos, not much disturbance, but the moment the police force is increased to deal with these people there is an increase in crime. This terrorist problem is really not a criminal problem and cannot be dealt with by the police as a question of mere law and order. Government should do its utmost in other ways in going to the root of the problem and finding a satisfactory solution for it, so that there may be peace in the province. In any such efforts which the Government makes it will have the whole-hearted support of this House. I submit once more that there is no use in merely adding to the number of policemen.

Lala Bhagat Ram (Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana, Non-Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, there is no doubt about it that our province has now got weary of the police excesses ; specially those of the additional police. My honourable friend has very emphatically recommended that the zamindar element should be increased in the Police Department, but I protest that the zamindars are illiterate and very rude. All the additional police was recruited from the Jhelum district. These men are very harsh, and engage in excesses, most calumnious and derogatory, to the public. No doubt there re some defects in the Police Department but it does not mean that all the

[Lala Bhagat Ram.]

policemen are corrupt and demoralised. There are many amongst them who are very honest and very hard working. For example, there is one sub-inspector Nizam-ud-Din in our tehsil who is very honest and diligent in his work. But the poor man as is usual with the honest officers is always short of money. He spends his salary before the month is out. Some four or five days before the expiry of the month his pockets become empty and then he makes all the purchases of the food stuffs on credit. The Government should encourage its honest and hard-working officers and meet condign punishments to the dishonest ones. Now the peace has been established in the country I hope the additional police will be automatically reduced. The diseases increase with the increase of the doctors. Similarly the crimes increase with the increase of the policemen. The sooner the Government reduce the police force the better—for the good of the people and for the peace of the country.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal has suggested and certain other speakers have also made the same suggestion that we should now bring the additional police force under reduction because of the peace or truce concluded between His Excellency the Governor-General in Council and the Working Committee of the Congress. That, I think, is a little premature. We have not yet got any solid foundation on which to conclude that the whole of the unlawful activities which have been so marked a feature of the last ten months have definitely come to a stop. In fact only to-day I was reading a report of a very large meeting held in this town at which a large section of persons in sympathy with the civil disobediance movement characterised the peace-terms as entirely unsatisfactory and discreditable to the Indian nation, and passed a resolution that the " war " should go on as before or that they should continue the struggle as before. As long as that spirit prevails there can obviously be no question of reducing the forces of law and order. That is by no means an isolated instance though I do not wish to attach undue importance to it. A similar spirit has been shown in other parts of India, and, at any rate, until the situation has clarified considerably more than it has at present, I think it would be rash to assume that it is safe to dispense with the additional police force.

Then there is another point that I wish to make. The additional police has to cope not only with organised defiance of law but also with the menace of anarchy and terrorism, and so long as that menace persists, the additional police or, certainly a large section of it, must be kept. I agree with my honourable friend from Hoshiarpur that the police cannot bring the menace of terrorism to an end, but the police at any rate afford a measure of security to those persons whose lives are in constant danger from the bomb and revolver. That is the way in which the police are employed at the present moment, or at any rate a large part of them. I agree that the employment of police will not stop the policy that promotes these outrages. It will only be stopped by a change of heart and by an appreciation of the fact that political advance, true political advance, has never in my experience or according to the teachings of history been won by methods such as these people employ.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal gave us a little light relief by suggesting that the army should take over the control of motor traffic on the roads. I

presume he has seen—most of us have seen—in the last few days some soldiers learning from the police how motor traffic in Lahore is controlled. I would not like to be the person to approach the General Officer Commanding the Northern Army, and suggest that it is part of the duty of his Army to control the motor traffic in Lahore or Amritsar or even in Rawalpindi.

Then we had an interesting discussion as regards the type of man who should be recruited to the police. My honourable friend opposite said, "brawn"; my honourable friend on my right said, "brain." We want both brawn and brain. I submit on the whole we have a pretty fair representation of both in the Punjab police, both in the regular police and the additional police. (*Hear, hear.*) There is not a case of which I can think, arising out of the disorders of the last few months, not one single case that I can remember, although in numerous cases the police had to face very heavy odds—a handful of men against a crowd of thousands—in which a police officer showed the white feather.

I would like the House to remember that the Punjab Police, and more especially the additional police, are recruited from exactly the same type of men as the Indian Army, the Indian Army which has won the Punjab such renown all over the world, and that the Punjab Police have excited the admiration to my personal knowledge of innumerable visitors to this province. The first thing that a stranger coming to Lahore says to me—this has happened to myself and I do not doubt to other honourable members—"what a splended body of police you have!" It is a wonderful testimony to the Punjab police that no less than five other provinces of India which have recruited additional police sent their recruiting officers to the Punjab and took Punjabis. No, Sir, I think it is wrong to conclude that our police are lacking either in brains or in brawn. Of their detective ability it is difficult to speak by statistics, but I have certainly myself seen or had brought to my notice cases where detective ability of a very high order has been shown both by officers in high position and by men comparatively low in the ranks, and I do not think it is a fair reproach to bring against them that they are lacking in brains any more than they are lacking in brawn.

4 P.M.

That, Sir, is all I have to say. It is true that the House has listened, and I hope it listened with the feelings with which I listened which were almost of disgust, to certain vague and completely unsubstantiated charges of a general nature brought against the police from the very last quarter in this House from which one might have expected them. These charges have been completely answered by my honourable friend from Hoshiarpur, and I propose to make no further reply to them.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,71,100 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Police."

The motion was carried.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,09,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

Mr. President:—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,09,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the total grant be reduced by Re. 1."

My object in moving the amendment is to urge that all women convicted for political offences be given not less than B class. It may be said that most of the women convicted for political offences have been released or are going to be released. But, Sir, it is just possible that if perfect peace does not prevail there may be occasions when Government may have to prosecute some women political (so-called) agitators, and it is possible that some of them may be convicted. Then the question will again arise what class they should be awarded. I find that there is no uniform system followed in the Punjab. In certain districts women are given A class, in others B class and yet in others C class. I think it was very unfair that though in Lahore women were generally awarded B class, in Amritsar they were generally awarded C class. It is an English maxim to respect women, and it is the English people who have taught us to respect women, but now, Sir, the Englishmen are lagging behind. A woman belonging to a respectable family goes to attend a political meeting, there she is carried away by emotion. The policeman comes and asks her if she is a volunteer. She says, yes. She is forthwith arrested, tried and sent to jail. I have been watching the movement very keenly. I have seen many times women having been convicted just because they said they were volunteers. Is it fair that they should be treated as C class prisoners? They are not thieves, they are not dacoits, they are not given to criminal tendencies, and their only offence is that they have technically broken a law promulgated by an ordinance in the heat of the moment. They are sent to jails as ordinary prisoners. They have to wear prisoners' dress, they have to suffer a lot of hardship. These are women who have gone to jail not because of any selfish motive, they have gone there with the patriotic motive of seeing their country free. They have gone to jail, but is it not right for us, the honoured members of the country in this House, to urge upon Government the necessity of treating these women properly? Why does Government make any distinction? The law knows no distinction because all men, rich or poor, paupers or millionaires, are treated alike. But Government has made this distinction of A, B, and C class. These political women prisoners have to suffer a great deal, and they suffer for the cause of their country, not for any selfish motive, but because they want freedom—freedom which the Englishman loves. When they have only technically broken the law, I do not think that Government should be so hard on them. It will raise the Government in the

eyes of the public if it treats them fairly. Simply because a woman cannot show that her husband is drawing Rs. 250 or Rs. 300 she is put in C class. In this country it is not necessary that a big man's daughter must marry a rich man's son. Sometimes a millionaire's daughter is married to a poor man, and it is just possible that an ordinary man's daughter may marry a Maharaja's son. This has happened in Amritsar, and this has happened in Lahore. There are many girls of ordinary status who are married to Maharajas in this country. So the standard of a girl's father's pay or her husband's pay is not a correct standard. My learned friend may say that some of the women——.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am not learned.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I am sorry he is not. He has my sympathy. I am using the term technically whether he likes it or not, and he will remain learned so far as I am concerned. My unlearned friend, if he wants me to put it that way, should treat these women convicts properly. Bad treatment to them has a bad effect even on those who are not politically minded. To put a woman in class C for her political ideas is something repugnant. So my request is that Government should have a uniform standard everywhere, and not one that differs in different places ; also that no woman who has been convicted for a political offence should be given less than B class.

Mr. President : Demand under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Re. 1."

Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave (Non-official Nominated) : I have not very much to say, but a few months ago I visited in a professional capacity a woman prisoner in one of the jails of the Punjab. On the occasion what struck me was, that if she was there to reflect upon the error of her ways she was having far too good a time for any salutary effect to be produced. There were many comforts and the prisoners communicated freely with one another. It is with the object of discipline and correction primarily, I take it, that people are made prisoners. This was just a restful and scarcely unpleasant interlude in a strenuous life that many a busy women might have envied.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : Sir, I should like to inform the honourable member what the actual facts are about the classification of women prisoners. I received notice of this cut only two days ago and I have only had time to make enquiries from one jail, but that is by far the biggest female jail in the Punjab, the Lahore Female Jail, where nearly all the political prisoners are sent. I take it that that is the jail where Dr. Shave visited her patient. The figures for classification of women in the Lahore Female Jail are as follows : On the 1st August 1930 there were two female prisoners, one was A class and the other was C. I do not know whether the C class prisoner was a political prisoner or not. On the 1st October last there were 20 prisoners, 5 were A, 15 were B and none was C. On the 2nd January last there were 54 prisoners, 7 were A, 40 were B and 7 only were C. On the 3rd March 1931, that is, immediately before these ladies were released, there were 90 women prisoners, 14 were A class, 66 were B and 10 were C. Whether these ten prisoners were political prisoners or ordinary prisoners I am unable to say. But at any rate the

[Hon. Sir Honry Craik.]
figures show that the Government has interpreted the classification rules in the case of women with what even the honourable and learned member opposite will admit to be extreme liberality. Practically every single woman, 80 out of 90, were classified A or B, and of the ten included in C, the odds are that they were ordinary prisoners.

It does not follow from that that I can accept the proposition that all women convicted of what are called political offences shall be classified as B class or higher. If it became generally known that every woman, whatever her social status, whatever her position in life, would be given favourable treatment for offences which my learned friend may choose to call technical, but which in essence are acts of deliberate defiance of some law or other, if that became known, then it obviously would tend to encourage the use of women in political agitation, and later on, I have little doubt, in the commission of ordinary crimes also. Now I think all sections of this House will agree that the use of women in political agitation, the use of women as pawns in the political game, is very reprehensible. (*Hear, hear.*) I say that if the honourable member's proposition were accepted, it would undoubtedly tend to encourage their use. The use of women in political agitation is not only a thing that is repugnant to every man's sense of chivalry, be he Indian or Englishman, but is also extremely distasteful in particular to those people who have to deal with them, such as magistrates, police, jail staff, and so on. More than that, it has been condemned by the very person who started this movement, Mahatma Gandhi himself. He said "It is just as cowardly to use women in the political struggle as it would be for Hindus to put cows in the forefront of the battle." Unfortunately his announcement on that occasion has been honoured in the breach rather than in the observance. I am afraid I cannot accept my learned friend's suggestion.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the demand be reduced by Re. 1."

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,09,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : I move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,06,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Administration of Justice."

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,450 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of General Administration (Transferred)."

Mr. President :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,450 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of General Administration (Transferred)."

Pir Akbar Ali (Ferozepore, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to oppose this demand. I would request the House to reject this demand *in toto*. (*An honourable member*: Which demand ?) I am opposing demand No. 13 which relates to Ministers' salaries . As you are aware the province is now in the grip of distressed times. We should therefore leave no stone unturned to curtail the provincial expenditure. I would request the Honourable Ministers to forego their salaries and work honorarily till the present conditions materially improve. As a matter of fact our Ministers can well afford to forego their salaries and work honorarily. They are well-wishers of this province. It is not too much to expect that they would see their way to comply with my request. Sir, the word " Vazir " means one who bears the burden. Let our Vazirs bear the burden of the province to the extent I have just proposed . Besides the value of the work done by the Ministers is in no way commenusrate with the high salaries they are drawing. In fact they have very little work to do. One can reasonably ask them what useful work they have done so far in their respective departments. I say let them rise to the occasion and do a thing which will be remembered by the future generations. Besides, Sir, in this country honorary public service is looked upon with great respect. I would therefore request the Honourable Ministers that in view of the financial stringency now prevailing in the province they should now work honorarily. They may contend that if they work they would suffer a great loss. In this connection I would submit that the duties of a Minister are very simple and they can therefore work turn by turn throughout the year. With these words I would request the Honourable Ministers that they should be prepared to work honorarily.

Mr. President : The other day when the question regarding the admissibility of the motion relating to the reduction of Ministers' salaries was being discussed, I suggested to the Government to so arrange the order of budget demands for grants as to give for certain the opposition an opportunity to discuss the demand relating to the salaries of Ministers. I take this opportunity to point out that according to Parliamentary Practice it is immaterial in which order demands for grants are taken, and that the Government readily cedes to the opposition the right of choosing a particular demand for grant to be taken on a particular day. If necessary reference may be made to pages 92—94 of Campion's Introduction to the Procedure of the House of Commons.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan (Ambala Division, North-East Muhammadan, Rural) : The other day when this motion was before the House I opposed the reduction of the salary of Ministers on the ground that any distinction made between them and the Executive Councillors in the matter of pay would be invidious. But now the question is whether the total salary should be omitted and the Ministers be asked to work *gratis*. This I am prepared to support. I would not at all have advised the Ministers to agree to work on a salary of Rs. 2,500 a month, but a position like this where they agree to work free is quite thinkable. Look at the enormous sacrifices which have been made by other people in the cause which they thought right, and perhaps we differed in our judgment from them. Pandit Motilal Nehru gave up a lucrative practice of Rs. 50,000 a month and served the nation to the best of his lights. Only the other day Nawab Sir Ahmed Sayeed Khan, the Nawab of Chattari, gave up voluntarily Rs. 2,000 of his pay. If he were asked to forego the whole of his pay I am sure he would have done so. All the Ministers in our province are very rich men. I know personally, and I can say that the Honourable Minister for Agriculture does not stand in need of his pay. Before he got into this present position he was working on committees like the Taxation Committee and in the Assembly without being paid for. As he has shown this self-sacrificing spirit from those early days, will it be too much to ask him to exercise the same virtue for the sake of his province, the land of his birth which is now in the grip of financial stringency? As for the Education Minister, who does not know his family? He never stands in need of his pay, and can surely do his work much better without it than with it. Because by getting a pay he has to be very careful about little things. As for the Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang, who does not know his ability? He has been earning a lot at the bar, and I know he is not poorer than either of the other Ministers, and he can afford to forego his salary for the cause of the province. There is nothing extraordinary or strange in the suggestoin that the Ministers should forego their entire salary. They are not servants of Government in the sense that they are going to get a permanent salary for all time to come. They will be getting it till the duration of this Council, and it may be that some of them may not find themselves in the position at the next Council. And so, as public-spirited men, what cause could be more sacred to their hearts than coming to the assistance of their own province in the grip of great financial stringency? It is up to the Ministers to imitate the example of the Nawab of Chattari.

Mr. President : Repetition is unnecessary.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I was mentioning the example of the Nawab of Chattari in the first instance just to show the sacrifice he had made. Now I am making the appeal that our Ministers should follow the example set by the Home Member of the United Provinces. Whether they voluntarily reduce it or do so at the instance of a motion of this Council, the result is the same. It was only by chance that the motion for the cut was not sent in time. It is now open to them to voluntarily forego the whole of their salary and meet the wishes of the House.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders, General) : When the question of the salaries of Ministers came up for discussion last time I was about to speak when closure was moved and I take

this opportunity of expressing my views on the question which has come up again for discussion. I wish to appeal to the members of the House that they should discriminate between an appeal to the generosity and magnanimity of public servants and the exercise of their power to cut or reduce their salaries. On the last occasion also an appeal was made when the question of the salaries of public servants which are non-votable came up for discussion ; and in the case of Ministers' salaries, the appeal was made by the honourable member for Sialkot that it would behove the Ministers to surrender a portion of their salaries voluntarily. Now I wish to point out to honourable members that that is quite a different matter from exercising their power as members of the Council to reduce the salaries of Ministers or refuse them.

In dealing with this question let me point out to the House that there are two broad principles which ought to govern our policy with regard to the salaries of public servants. First of all we should give them enough salary which would enable them to keep up their position. Secondly we should produce in their minds a feeling of security. We have two classes of public servants serving the country. One class belongs to the category whose salaries cannot be voted and the other, whose salaries can be voted. The exemption from the control of the Council granted in respect of the first class of public servants is due to the necessity of producing a feeling of security in their minds. They have come from abroad on a certain understanding, on a certain agreement which has to be observed. If they had known that their salaries would be reduced at the whim of the Council they would not have come and that is the reason why their salaries have been made non-votable. Ministers are to a certain extent exceptions to this general rule because according to the Act and according to the practice of Parliament their salaries can be reduced if their policy is not approved, if the way in which they are carrying on the administration is not approved by the Council. That is quite a different matter from forcing a smaller salary on them or denying them any salary on the ground of economy. You cannot interfere with the salaries of your existing servants on the ground that your income has fallen. Most of my friends who are sitting here themselves employ a large domestic establishment and they are zamindars. Their income must have gone down considerably. I wish to know how many of them have reduced the salary of their household servants or the salary of their estate managers. (*An honourable member* : Many of them have). If you have, you have done the wrong thing. I have not. I have reduced the rent of my tenants, but I have not reduced the salaries of my servants. Some of them I entertained on the understanding that they would continue to receive a certain amount of salary. On the last occasion as well as on this, repeated assurances were given to us that the policy of the Ministers was not being attacked. If that is the case there is no reason for reducing their salaries. As to asking them to give up their salary altogether, that is an appeal to their generosity and magnanimity which cannot be done on the floor of the Council. It may be done by a separate memorial signed by members of the Council and duly presented to them. That is all that I wish to say on the question before the House. (*Cheers.*)

5 P.M.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,02,450 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of General Administration (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (RESERVED).

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 90,41,900 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of General Administration (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

DEBT SERVICES.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,600 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Debt Services."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,71,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Irrigation (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT, SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,88,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Irrigation Establishment, Sutlej Valley Project."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT, OPEN CANALS.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 85,53,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Irrigation Establishment, Open Canals."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : I beg to move—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,94,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Irrigation."

Mr. President :—

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,94,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Irrigation."

Mr. E. Maya Das (Nominated, Non-official) : Sir, may I ask your permission to oppose the whole grant to discuss one important matter ?

Mr. President : Certainly.

Mr. E. Maya Das : The Irrigation Department has forgotten to study the requirements of the irrigators. A great many years ago when these canals were first constructed the canal department built the bridges on the roads cut by these canals. In those days there were no motor lorries or other fast moving vehicles, and the bridges were suitable enough for the slow moving vehicles of those days. Further the road on top of these bridges has been given the shape of an "S," it also goes up and comes down suddenly, with the result that accidents are caused to fast moving motor vehicles. The people no doubt benefit by the canals, but indirectly they often are victims of accidents on the roads on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the bridges over these canals. Many people have also lost their lives in these accidents. What is going to be done to rectify the defects in these bridges over the small *raj bahas* which are often only seven or eight feet wide ? Who is going to put these bridges right ? I understand in some districts there has been some correspondence with the Irrigation Department and the Irrigation Department has replied saying that it is the business of the district boards to put them right. The district boards it is well known are quite poor and cannot put them right. The Government should not allow the bridges to remain in this dangerous condition. I request them to take the work in hand and put them right. They may not do it all at once in one year, but they may have a programme spread over a few years.

Mr. President, may I also speak about the percolation of water from the Bikaner Canal ?

Mr. President : Yes.

Mr. E. Maya Das : Sir, in the neighbourhood of Ferozepore the Bikaner Canal is not lined for some miles and consequently the water percolates, and is proving a source of a lot of trouble to the zamindars. In many villages the *kharif* cultivation is practically impossible. The percolated water stands in the fields and does not dry up early enough for the *rabi* cultivation, with the result that *rabi* cultivation begins late and yields poor crops. The houses in the villages nearby are badly damaged by the moisture which spoils the walls of houses and makes them fall. Before this canal was dug there was a storm water drain passing across the canal route ; but when the canal was dug no syphon was provided to drain the water and take it to the other side of the canal. That a storm water drain

[Mr. E. Maya Das.]
existed can be proved by the existence of syphons in that neighbourhood. There is a syphon under the Grey Canal, there is one under the railway line and one on the other side of the Bikaner Canal. I believe the authorities have admitted that it was an oversight that a syphon was not built under the Bikaner and the Eastern Canals. I think they have either begun or about to construct a syphon there, but even that will not cure altogether the evil, because the subsoil water rises very fast. I have myself seen the water in wells rise to ground level and over in summer. The people in the neighbourhood are very much concerned as to what will happen to them in one or two years' time. Sometime back the Canal Department fixed some pumps to pump the water away, but even these have been removed. I understand they are going to construct a channel alongside the Canal which will carry the seepage water away. I want to know whether this is really going to be done. I have only heard about it.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,94,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Irrigation."

The motion was carried.

REGISTRATION.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,500 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Registration."

The motion was carried.

FOREST (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,700 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Forest (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

FORESTS.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,71,100 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Forests."

The motion was carried.

STAMPS.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 51,500 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Stamps."

The motion was carried.

EXCISE.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,59,700 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Excise."

The motion was carried.

LAND REVENUE.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,13,200 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Land Revenue."

Mr. President :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,13,200 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Land Revenue."

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan [Ambala Division, North-East, Muhammadan, Rural] : Sir, I rise to oppose the entire demand on the ground that the services in the Revenue Department have been very badly neglected. The patwaris are a very hard working class, but their pay remains the same as was fixed some years ago. The plight of patwaris is very miserable. When the small pay of the patwaris was fixed in the early years of the British Government the patwaris had a great many privileges which though not legally allowed the patwaris thought them to be lawful. For instance, patwaris could keep a number of animals as long as they could get—

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The honourable member is again discussing patwaris and not the whole grant.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : But now the times are very hard for them—

Mr. President : For whom ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Patwaris. Their pay is not sufficient to make both ends meet. They are miserable creatures in the villages.

After that comes the case of Tahsildars. It is well known to every body that Tahsildars are the backbone of the administration but they are getting very small pay as compared with those in other services.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member therefore propose that the pay of the patwaris and Tahsildars should be increased ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I say that their salaries have not been increased and therefore I oppose the demand. During the war Tahsildars rendered services which no other servants did, so much so that one or two were killed in procuring recruits. You will remember the case of the Tahsildar at Bahl Lurka village in Shahpur who was mercilessly murdered just because of his enthusiasm for procuring recruits. They procured recruits and war loan in a manner in which no one else did. But after the war they were altogether neglected. When I say altogether, I use the word advisedly, because there was no increase given to them. When they raised a hue and cry in 1921, then they were given some increment in their pay and since that time although other services have got promotions, the Tahsildars remain where they were, so much so that when recently Government declared certain services to be provincial services, the Tahsildars were left out. This was only a verbal concession but even this was not accorded to Tahsildars. When I put a question I was told that no further concessions would be shown to the Tahsildars. In 1927 the Honourable the Finance Member—and he was no other than our present Governor—when presenting the Budget described them as the pivotal service in the provincial administrative machinery. That description clearly means that they are the most important service and there is no other meaning which can be attached to this description which His Excellency the Governor who was Finance Member then, was pleased to employ with respect to them. But when the question comes for making the services provincial the Tahsildars are neglected. Then the Tahsildars were declared gazetted officers in 1925. I submit that it was far easier to declare the Tahsildars as members of a provincial service than any other service which was not even a gazetted service, so much so that even a new service has just been declared a provincial service, the Tahsildars remain where they were. And this in spite of the fact that they have rendered the hardest service to the administration as well as to the public. Who can deny that during the war these people kept awake during the whole nights and some of them travelled as many as 55 miles in a single day in order to procure recruits? When they were asleep at night some time a man would come running at one o'clock or two o'clock and say : I have got two recruits and people are coming behind me to take them away. And the poor Tahsildar had to get up and make provision for them. And yet after the war was over they were never thought of, and the reason was that these people who were by habit and by tradition very loyal, never raised any hue and cry. The result was, as everywhere it is, that he who cries the loudest gets the thing he wants, but he who remains silent does not get it. Our good Government perhaps acted in accordance with the saying :

تا نہ گرید طفل کے جوشد لبن
تا نہ گرید ابر کے خندد چمن

It says, as long as the cloud does not rain, the garden cannot blossom. So those who cry the loudest get everything and those who remain silent do not get anything. But this is not right on the part of Government. They should have thought of the services the Tahsildars rendered, the great duties they performed and the immense trouble they underwent;

so much so that in all the durbars that were held by the Lieutenant-Governor, His Honour Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the Tahsildars were highly spoken of and their praises were sung to the sky. When a high official met a Tahsildar, he said, "Splendid, Tahsildar Sahib, you are doing very well; I will think of you when the time comes." But when the time came for the distribution of loaves and fishes these people were entirely neglected. The Revenue Department should have thought of these men in the first instance, and I cannot condemn their action too strongly.

One other thing. Many people who flourished at the cost of the Tahsildar got a good deal. I can give an example of a certain Tahsildar. This Tahsildar used to bring recruits himself because there was no public spirited man who could bring any recruits. But then a circular was issued by Government bearing the signature of the honourable Financial Commissioners that no Tahsildar should enter any recruits in his name. The poor fellow was obliged to enter the recruits whom he had brought by his own persuasion, in the name of a certain big man of the tahsil. The result was that when the time came for rewards this big sardar of the tahsil, though he did not himself supply a single recruit, got a sword of honour and other decorations whereas the Tahsildar of Jagadhri, who brought all the recruits, did not get anything. And what is worse, his promotion was stopped for some departmental mistake. I say that this is a very hard case; and now that both the Financial Commissioners are officials who have been in this department from the very start of their service, I bring the case of the Tahsildars to their notice and ask them to undo the wrong which has been done to this class of officers who are most loyal to Government, who have worked so hard and who are silent like a lamb. They never raise a hue and cry but their services should not go unheeded and Government should extend to them their greatest sympathy. Apart from their duty during the war everybody knows that the whole machinery of Government is worked by the Tahsildars. Take any department. Take any branch of the administration and tell me where the Tahsildars have not been required. When there is famine the Tahsildar is asked to collect subscriptions, when there is plague the Tahsildar is asked to get the people inoculated and when there is cholera he is asked to go and get the people inoculated even at the risk of his own life. When there is any work of utility going on the Government always makes a demand on his services and there is no end to the duties of the Tahsildars. They are after all human beings. You put the heaviest load on their back and their duties are increasing day by day. Since the Reforms additional duties have been put on them. They are holding elections, they are preparing statistics by working day and night, they are controlling the biggest revenue paying department, the Revenue Department, they are doing magisterial work. In fact they are doing so many duties that if I were to enumerate them from morning to evening, I shall not be able to do justice to them. I have been a Tahsildar for twenty years. I cannot say how many duties we were performing. But what is the result if the Deputy Commissioner is displeased with him? A case of corruption is always made against him. The other day I drew the attention of the Government to the fact that a Tahsildar was most unjustly dismissed from the service of Government. That is a very interesting piece of information and I shall tell the House a few particulars of that case.

Mr. President: The honourable member is not in order in referring to such minor details.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: This is a very interesting point and I request you to kindly allow me to refer to it.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: I submit that, however interesting the case the honourable member wants to refer to may be, it would not be relevant to the Revenue Grant now before the House.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: I will just finish this and take another point. There were two cases made out against that Tahsildar.

Mr. President: I have already requested the honourable member not to bring in such minor details.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: With your permission I shall finish it in a minute. There were two cases started against that Tahsildar, one of corruption and the other that he uttered certain improper words against Europeans. These cases were prepared by the Deputy Commissioner whose enmity with the Tahsildar was established. These cases were prepared by the police sub-inspector against whom the Tahsildar had passed adverse remarks very severely in a judicial judgment. The witnesses put against the Tahsildar were—

Mr. President: May I request the honourable member not to discuss further the details of this case?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan: Very well, Sir. The other point I want to refer to is that the Revenue Department has not done much for the zamindars. The zamindars are in the grip of a great distress, so much so that this fact has been repeated in this House *ad nauseam*. The Revenue Department has not risen to the height of the occasion; it has not done anything for the zamindars. Last time at the request of the Council the Government gave a remission, but this was only a drop in the ocean. The remission did not benefit all the zamindars. I ask, what justification there is for the Government to benefit only those districts which have got canal irrigation. According to the saying, 'To him that hath more shall be given and from him that hath not shall be taken away even what he hath'. The canal districts were much better off than the other districts which have no canals. In these districts they had irrigation and full produce and it was only a question of fall in prices. But in those districts where there is no canal irrigation, the zamindars got nothing out of their land. I say there are many zamindars who did not get even five rupees worth of produce and they had to pay Rs. 30 and Rs. 40 as land revenue. There is a friend of mine who has 16,000 bighas of land. He swore to me that he had to pay Rs. 4,000 as land revenue and that he paid it by borrowing from a bank. The outturn from his land was not sufficient even to pay land revenue. If we ask the Government to do something for such zamindars, the Financial Commissioner says that that will benefit big zamindars. I say that big zamindars are in greater distress on account of the present economic stringency than the small zamindars. The small zamindars can earn money if not from land, at least by working as labourers; but as

for the big zamindars, how are they to get money ? I dare say a big zamindar who lives on the income of land cannot produce a thousand rupees in these days. This is due to the fact that the Revenue Department has been very indifferent to the condition of the zamindars. The department charges land revenue from the zamindars with the greatest possible accuracy. Not a single pie is omitted. Honourable members will perhaps be surprised to learn that in the settlement which has been effected recently a demand has been put at five annas three pies two chataks and three sarsahis. Even a shopkeeper will not care to work with so much accuracy. I say the state of affairs of the zamindars is very bad and if this is to continue, then the zamindars will have to migrate from their homes and go away leaving their lands. This has occurred already in some districts. People may say that this is due to the Congress agitation. That is not so. If the zamindars refused to pay land revenue, it was because of their inability to pay. Perhaps the Congress movement may have encouraged them to do so, but the real fact is that they have no money to pay. (*Interruption*). I am criticising the whole demand.

Mr. President : May I again request the honourable member to avoid such minor details ?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I was saying that the Revenue Department has not done anything for the zamindars who form the backbone of the State.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member has said enough on that point.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I am only discussing the condition of the zamindars. If I did not describe in detail how will any one accept my statement?

Mr. President : If possible the honourable member may not discuss the general condition of zamindars.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Can I describe them in a particular respect? I am dealing with the argument in support of the contention that this demand should be refused on account of the indifference of the Revenue Department. I was saying that the zamindars have been most hard hit. Instead of relieving the distress of the zamindars the Government is going on building houses and spending money on them.

Mr. President : What has the expenditure on buildings got to do with the land revenue?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Government is going on spending money on surveys and settlements and this at a time when there is so much stringency. Survey and settlements are being carried on in order to increase the land revenue just at this time when great distress is prevailing in the province. The Government is carrying on the settlement operation regardless of the condition of the zamindars. It is just like saying that when a man is dying of starvation another is celebrating his *Id*.

Mr. President : That is repetition again. The condition of the zamindars has been described so many times.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I am saying that on account of the condition of the zamindars the settlement operations should be stopped. There is a very small reform which should have been introduced long ago and that is in connection with chowkidars in the villages. They serve no useful purpose.

Mr. President : Chowkidars' pay is not included in the demand under consideration.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Yes, they are included. I may draw your attention to page 65 of the budget.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : The chowkidars referred to here are forest chowkidars of Hoshiarpur and not village chowkidars.

Mr. President : The honourable member does not appear to have studied the budget carefully. The reference here, as Mr. Townsend says, is to forest chowkidars and not to village chowkidars.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I was talking of forest chowkidars.

Mr. President : The honourable member was clearly talking about the village chowkidars, but if he wishes to correct himself, he may do so.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : I correct myself. I am, like any other human being, liable to err. These forest chowkidars, a great many of them, serve no useful purpose. They do sell wood of the forests to zamindars when they are employed to guard them. They should therefore be reduced and the cost thus gained should be employed in improving the condition of zamindars.

Another matter which I want to point out is that although a long time ago the Government accepted a resolution that zamindars will be employed in 66 per cent. of the posts in certain services and in 50 per cent. of the posts in certain other branches, up to this time that resolution has not been acted upon. Instead of 66 per cent. if you go to districts you will find that they have not got even ten per cent. If they had got 40 or even 30 per cent. of the posts I would have been content but not with ten per cent. You will find them in a very hopeless condition. Men less educated than the sons of zamindars are employed. It is the greatest possible condemnation of the Revenue Department. They accepted a resolution passed by this Council but they never acted up to it—

Mr. President : Is this relevant?

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : That resolution has not been acted upon.

Mr. President : Which resolution is the honourable member referring to ?

(*Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan again started referring to this point.*)

Mr. President : If the Honourable member persists in irrelevance and repetition I will have to ask him to resume his seat.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : The remunerations of the lambardars remain as before. It was fixed some decades ago, at the time when the British Government came to India, at 5 per cent. and it is still the same.

But look at the duties of the lambardars, the poor fellow has to attend to the smallest government servant. Still these things are existing and I think we must reject the whole demand. (*Hear, hear*).

Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan (Ambala-*cum*-Simla, Non-Muhammadan, Rural) : I stand to oppose this grant for the obvious reason that this service, this land revenue administration is wholly neglected in the subordinate services and the superior services of the district have no sympathy for these people who pay the land revenue. These poor peasants who pay the land revenue have not been able to get any sympathy from the higher officials (*Interruption*).

I have not been able to follow what the honourable member said. To begin with, I take the patwaris first. He is the lowest man in the whole of the administration. His services are very poorly paid, but in the last ten years since the Reforms were introduced his duties have been increased—

Mr. President : The honourable member is repeating the argument advanced by a previous speaker.

Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : I wish to point out that these sentences of mine may have been used by my predecessors who have just spoken before me but my arguments will not be the same, my reasons will not be the same and my whole speech will not be the same at all. I will try to convince the House by other reasons. It is quite right that the honourable member from Ambala, Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan like myself, said that the patwaris are poorly paid and their duties have been increased, but I wish to illustrate it also by mentioning that the reward that the Government pays to them is very little. At the end of their service even if they put 50 years service, what reward do they get? They get only Rs. 200 the maximum reward that they can have after putting in 50 years of service. Then if a patwari puts in 50 years service the maximum reward that he gets from the *mehrban* Government is only Rs. 200 and there are circumstances in which a patwari may be taken away from his patwarship but instances of their being taken away into the services like kanungo and ahlmads are not forthcoming. It is very discouraging for a patwari that even after doing useful work he is not taken in any other service and has to rot where he is and the maximum pay which he will get at the end of service of long years is only Rs. 26. The higher service people take even *gannas* from the villagers even *lakri*. Promises have several times been made that patwaris will be admitted to other service, that they will be taken in judicial branches as ahlmads and ahilkars, but intances are not forthcoming of their having been so taken. And even if a patwari gets the grade of a kanungo, what does he get ? He gets a fixed pay. He has no connection with the zamindars and we have created a disability against him but his pay is only Rs. 40. He gets only Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 throughout the province.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : What does a graduate get?

Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : A graduate may begin with any pay, but the career before him is open and he can make progress. But a kanungo is doomed for all time on Rs. 50. Every honourable member who is acquainted with the conditions knows the duties of a kanungo. His duties are special duties and upon these kanungos and patwaris hinges the whole of the establishment of the Revenue Department and if patwaris and kanungos are not

[Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.]
efficient the whole of the administration of the Revenue Department goes to ruin. We cannot therefore have inefficient men as kanungos, we may have inefficient Ministers and we may have inefficient Revenue Member but we cannot have an inefficient patwari in the village. He will spoil the whole of the record and when a question is asked of the honourable member he will find it difficult to answer. Then, Sir, when a patwari is admitted as kanungo there are additional difficulties. The services of a patwari as a patwari are not taken into consideration when pension is granted to a patwari kanungo at his retirement. A kanungo may retire as kanungo but his years of service put in as patwari will not be counted. I shall be glad if it is refuted or denied by the responsible authorities in the Revenue Department that kanungos do not receive any encouragement. He has to live only as a patwari or a kanungo and he has no bright career before him. He is doomed where he is. Then comes the Tahsildar. Howsoever good work a Tahsildar may do he too is an officer of the subordinate service which has been neglected and will continue to be neglected as is evident from the reply given by the Honourable Revenue Member in a question put by Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.

Mr. President : What is the honourable member driving at?

Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : That the whole administration from top to bottom be condemned. One part is neglected and the other is not doing its duty.

Mr. President : Does the demand for grant under discussion include the salary of Tahsildars? (*A voice :* No.) Then why is the honourable member discussing it.

Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : The first portion of my speech that the subordinate services have been neglected is finished. I now take the case of those persons who are higher than the Tahsildars in the Revenue Department.

Mr. President : Tahsildars' pay is not included in the grant.

Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan : What else is included?

Mr. President : It is not my business. If the honourable member does not know, he may resume his seat.

Lala Bhagat Ram (Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana, Non-Muhammdan, Rural), (*Urdu*) *:* Sir, as has been rightly remarked the patwaris are an overworked class of public servants. As if they had not many duties to perform before, recently other duties have been imposed on them. They have been required to do census work and they have to submit daily reports about the political movement in their respective circles. What a pity it is that the pay that they get for all these pains is the lowest, in my opinion, as compared with the pay of all other public servants. Then they have to maintain large families because living in the healthy climate of villages, they beget more children than those who live in towns (*laughter*). That is a fact and, therefore, they have to resort to unfair means.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member propose that the pay of patwari should be increased ?

Lala Bhagat Ram : Yes.

Mr. President : If that is the object of the honourable member, he should have moved a resolution to that effect. The Council cannot increase any demand or item of the budget.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan (Sialkot, Muhammadan, Rural) : My submission is that the mere fact that this is the last grant under discussion and we have got through the budget much more quickly than was anticipated is not a reason why we should treat this particular estimate in a flippant manner and I submit that there are limits even to inconsistency. If there is any one particular matter which has been urged upon the attention of the Government with seriousness and persistency during this session it is the need for retrenchment and economy and it does not now lie in the mouths of the honourable members to stand up and say that certain services are badly paid. It may be that they are badly paid but surely they will recognise that the present is not the time to request the Government to spend more money on their pay, and I hope that honourable members will now consider that they have sufficiently ventilated the grievances of the patwaris and Tahsildars and that really at this moment nobody can expect that Government should undertake larger expenditure in this matter than they are incurring at present.

6 P.M.

Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan (*Urdu*) : The pay of the patwaris is really very small and the Government will do well to ncrease their pay because in that case we will be able to get much better men than are forthcoming at present.

Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie : I move.

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,13,200 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1932 in respect of Land Revenue."

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday, the 19th March, 1931.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 19th March 1931.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in.

Staig, Mr. B. M. (Financial Advisor to Government).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SCHOOL FEE CONCESSIONS TO AGRICULTURISTS.

*323. **Sardar Mohan Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the names of areas where school fee concessions to agriculturists have been sanctioned by the Government ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The concession of half fees has been granted to children of agriculturists and village *kamins* attending the secondary classes of Government and Board Anglo-Vernacular Schools and of Government Intermediate Colleges from the areas shown in the attached statement—

Name of district.	*Name of area to which concession is admissible.*
1. Shahpur	.. Khushab tahsil.
2. Jhelum	.. All tahsils.
3. Attock	.. Ditto.
4. Mianwali	.. Ditto.
5. Rawalpindi	.. Ditto.
6. Muzaffargarh	.. Ditto.
7. Dera Ghazi Khan	.. Ditto.
8. Hissar	.. Fatehabad and Bhiwani tahsils.
9. Rohtak	.. Jhajjar tahsil.
10. Karnal.	.. Kaithal tahsil.
11. Kangra	.. All tahsils except Kangra and Palampur.
12. Hoshiarpur	.. Una tahsil.
13. Simla	.. Kot Khai tahsil.
14. Gurdaspur	.. Pathankot and Shakargarh tahsils.
15. Gurgaon	.. Nuh and Firozpur-Jhirka tahsils.

PUNJAB EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***324. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether the Education Department has issued any circular in which certain principles are laid down which Government intend to observe in regulating promotion to the selection grade of the Punjab Educational Service ;

(*b*) whether Government is aware that an officer of the Punjab Educational Service, Khan Sahib Raja Fazil Muhammad, has been given selection grade (provisional) superseding about 25 officers above him ;

(*c*) if so, whether the principles laid down in the above-mentioned circular have been observed in this case ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Government intend to incorporate in the rules of the new Educational Services a provision that officers should reach a certain age before being regarded as eligible for promotion to the selection grade.

(*b*) As all these officers were recruited to the Provincial Service in the same year at the time of the reconstruction and expansion of that service, it is necessary to consider other qualifications such as the nature of the posts held by each officer, his record of work and length of service under Government.

(2) The principles have been observed.

SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT—AREA UNDER IRRIGATION.

***325. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) the percentage of land actually irrigated on the Sutlej Valley Project in British districts as compared with the area which should have been irrigated according to the programme up to 1930 ;

(*b*) the same figures for Bikaner, if available ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Seventy-eight in 1929-30.

(*b*) This information is not available.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Does the rate of development in the British districts compare favourably or unfavourably with that in Bikaner ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : We do not know anything about Bikaner.

CONTRACTOR RAMJI LAL.

***326. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that a contractor named Ramji Lal supplied only 50,000 c.f. of *kankar* and was paid a bill for 100,000 c.f. of *kankar* ;

(*b*) whether the Superintending Engineer, Delhi, investigated the case; if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) No contractor of this name appears to have been employed in the Second Circle.

(*b*) Does not arise.

CROWN WASTE LANDS IN THE SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

***327. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) the total area of Crown waste lands in the Sutlej Valley Project;

(*b*) the extent of area sold;

(*c*) area given out on temporary leases;

(*d*) area given on zamindari terms;

(*e*) area given on terms other than those mentioned in (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*);

(*f*) the area not yet leased out or sold;

(*g*) whether the Government intend to lease out the unallotted area to zamindars to be broken up with the cheap labour now available?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) to (*f*) A statement giving the information applied for is laid on the table.

(*g*) The balance available is intended for auction but will be leased out on temporary cultivation as water becomes available.

CROWN WASTE LAND IN THE SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

No.	Nature of the area.	Total area of the state land.	Area sold.	Area given on temporary leases.	Area given on zamindari (peasant) terms.	Area given on terms other than those in (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*).	Area not yet leased out or sold (balance).
		(*a*)	(*b*)	(*c*)	(*d*)	(*e*)	(*f*)
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1	Perennial ..	863,492	27,915*	122,649	268,380	29,313	415,235
2	Non-perennial	389,421	..	..	32,264	29,282†	327,875

*Excludes area confiscated up to date due to non-payment of instalments and includes area sold in *Mandis*.

†Given over for Forest Plantation.

WATER SUPPLY FOR THE MAILSI CANAL.

***328. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that water is permitted to run waste into the sea under the Adam Wahan Bridge across the Sutlej ;

(*b*) whether Government is aware that this water can be usefully employed for the Mailsi Canal ;

(*c*) if so, what action Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

***329. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the maximum irrigation so far done by the *kharif* channels in the Sutlej Valley Project and its proportion to the area under irrigation boundaries ;

(*b*) the maximum irrigation done by inundation canals previous to the introduction of controlled headworks, and also their proportion to the area under the irrigation boundaries of these channels ;

(*c*) if the progress is not satisfactory, what steps they propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) 950,426 ; 37 per cent.

(*b*) 813,738 ; 43 per cent.

(*c*) On the whole the progress is not considered to be unsatisfactory, in that there has been a very considerable extension of irrigated area.

SUPPLY OF COMMODITIES TO JAILS.

***330. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that the purchase of grains and other commodities for the use of prisoners in jails is usually made according to the current tahsil rate of the locality ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that if the purchases are made at a higher rate than the current tahsil rate, the amount of overcharge is recovered from the supplier or the purchaser as the case may be ;

(*c*) whether any European firm or company supplied wheat to the jails in Lahore during the years 1929 and 1930 ;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware that this European firm supplied grain and other commodities at rates higher than the current tahsil rates and the amount thus overcharged has

not been recovered from them ; if so, the total amount thus overpaid to them during the years 1929 and 1930, and the reasons for making exception in their case ;

(e) what is the name of this European firm ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) No. Grain is now purchased by tender or such other method as may be approved by a "Local Purchase Committee" which is composed of—

(1) the Jail Superintendent ;

(2) the Jail Medical Officer or Civil Surgeon ;

(3) the Deputy Commissioner or his representative ; and

(4) a non-official visitor.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) The rates of this firm have occasionally been above the current tahsil rate for the week concerned, but usually below it.

(e) Owen Roberts, Limited.

TAZIA LICENCE AT TARAORI VILLAGE.

***331. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(a) what restrictions were imposed on the licence for *tazias* as to their height at Taraori village in the Karnal district in 1928 or 1929 ;

(b) under what rule and for what reasons these restrictions were imposed ;

(c) whether Government is aware that the inhabitants of the village have given up the performance of this religious ceremony as a protest against the order imposing these restrictions ;

(d) whether the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal refused to give copy of the order imposing the said restrictions when the people of Taraori applied for it, for the purpose of preferring an appeal against the order imposing the said restrictions ;

(e) whether the Government is aware that the imposition of these restrictions has produced great uneasiness in the village ;

(f) if the answer to (e) is in the affirmative what action the Government intends to take in the matter ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (a) In 1929 and 1930, a restriction was imposed that *tazias* should not exceed 12 feet in height.

(b) The restriction was imposed under the provisions of Section 30 of Act V of 1861, in the interest of public peace.

(c) No. It is, however, understood that no *tazia* was taken out in 1930.

(d) No. No application to the Deputy Commissioner, Karnal, can be traced.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

MUHAMMADANS IN LOWER CHENAB CANAL ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENT.

*332. **Raja Muhammad Sarfaraz Ali Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of permanent and temporary subordinates employed on the East Circle, Lower Chenab Canal;
(*b*) the percentage of Muhammadans in the subordinate engineering service in that circle;
(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer has issued orders that a certain percentage of Muhammadans should be maintained while bringing temporary hands under reduction;
(*d*) whether it is a fact that five subordinates are under notice of reduction in East Circle out of which two are Muslims;
(*e*) whether this reduction is being carried out in conformity with the orders of the Chief Engineer;
(*f*) if not, why?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*)—

Permanent Subordinates	..	..	..	26
Temporary ,,	..	..	..	23

(*b*) 7.4 per cent.
(*c*) Yes.
(*d*) Yes.
(*e*) The information is not yet available; the matter is under enquiry.
(*f*) Does not arise.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

*333. **Raja Muhammad Sarfaraz Ali Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many posts of specialists and other superior service officers, permanent or temporary, were created and filled up during the last six years in the Department of Agriculture;
(*b*) how they stand community-wise;
(*c*) how many of these are statutory agriculturists and non-agriculturists;
(*d*) if there are any non-agriculturists, to which community do they belong;
(*e*) how many were promoted from the provincial service and how many were recruited direct;
(*f*) whether there is any percentage fixed for recruitment from provincial service as against direct recruitment?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Fifteen.
(*b*) Three Europeans, three Muslims, four Sikhs and five Hindus.
(*c*) Seven members of agricultural tribes and 5 non-agriculturists.
(*d*) One Sikh and 4 Hindus.
(*e*) Five promoted, eight appointed direct and the remainder transferred.
(*f*) No.

TRANSFERS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

***334. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Chief Secretary to Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount spent on transfers of Government servants each year, for the last three years;

(*b*) whether the Government intend to restrict transfers during the present period of financial stringency?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (*a*) The answer to this part of the question would involve an amount of labour out of all proportion to the value of the information.

(*b*) Yes, so far as the public interest allows.

TARINIGUZARS OF PIR MAHAL.

***335. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether any promise was held out last year to the *tariniguzars* of Pir Mahal that land would be granted to them provided they took it on lease?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No.

SUPPLY OF INFORMATION TO MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURES.

***336. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government servants are prohibited from giving any official information to a member of the legislature;

(*b*) why these restrictions have been imposed on Government servants, and whether the Government is prepared to remove them?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (*a*) Rule 17 of the rules issued by the Government of India to regulate the conduct of Government servants is as follows :—

"A Government servant may not, unless generally or specially empowered by the local Government in this behalf, communicate directly or indirectly to Government servants belonging to other departments, or to non-official persons, or to the Press, any document or information which has come into his possession in the course of his public duties, or has been prepared or collected by him in the course of those duties whether from official sources or otherwise."

(*b*) The reason for the restriction is obvious. The Punjab Government is not prepared to recommend the alteration of the rule. Members of the legislature can get information through questions put in the Council or through informal application to a Secretary to Government.

GRANT OF LAND TO TARINIGUZARS.

***337. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether a deputation of about 40 *tariniguzars* waited on the Financial Commissioner, Development, in March 1930;

(b) whether it is a fact that he promised them grant of land on Burala Branch;

(c) if so, whether any land has been granted to them;

(d) if not, why not?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) He stated that it was the intention of Government to allot land to real *tariniguzars* on the Burala extension.

(c) Not yet. The lists are under preparation.

(d) The Burala Branch is not yet running.

GRANT OF LAND TO TARINIGUZARS.

***338. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware that Mr. Geoffrey deMontmorency (now His Excellency Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency the Governor, Punjab) as Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, left a note in 1907, recommending grant of land to the *tariniguzars* of Kabirwala (now Pir Mahal) when that area comes under colonization;

(b) whether a similar note was made in November 1910;

(c) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay copies of those notes on the table;

(d) what action has been taken on them so far and what the Government intends to do in future regarding grant of land to those *tariniguzars* of *ilaqa* Pir Mahal?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) and (b) Government has not yet been able to trace any such notes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As is usual in such cases, the selection of *tariniguzars* whose livelihood was habitually and entirely dependent on grazing cattle in the areas now coming under colonization, is being made by the Colonization Officer.

TENDER RATE FOR LAND IN PIRMAHAL AREA.

***339. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) at what rate was land in Pir Mahal area of Lyallpur district given on tenders each year beginning with 1927;

(b) whether the tender rate is still the same while the prices of the produce is even less than half;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the lessees find it difficult to pay even land revenue ;

(d) whether Government intends to reduce the tender rate ;

(e) if so, by how much ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) The system has varied ; in 1927, the rent tendered varied from Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per matured acre. In the last two years, the rents tendered have varied from Rs. 11-13-0 to Rs. 19-13-0 per allotted acre. These rents include charges by way of land revenue and cesses.

(b) No.

(c) The lessees do not pay land revenue.

(d) No ; the rent tendered is determined by the tenderer and not by Government.

(e) Does not arise.

GRANT OF LAND TO TARINIGUZARS.

***340. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether every *tariniguzar* in the beginning of the Lyallpur and Montgomery colonization was given half a square of land ;

(b) whether that was the general rule in all the newly irrigated areas ;

(c) whether in the case of *tariniguzars* of Pir Mahal area the number of cattle fixed for grant of land was raised to 25 ;

(d) whether the Government is aware that inspite of that rule no land has so far been granted to the *tariniguzars* of Pir Mahal ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) and (b) In the Lyallpur and Montgomery (Lower Bari Doab) Colonies every effort was made to give half a square or rectangle to every *tariniguzar* whose livelihood was habitually and entirely dependent on grazing cattle in the areas coming under colonization.

(c) It is not intended to depart from this policy in the case of Pir Mahal.

(d) Yes. Lists are being prepared.

TARINIGUZARS IN PIRMAHAL AREA.

***341. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many *tariniguzars* are there in the Pir Mahal area that paid *tarini* for 25 cattle ;

(b) how many *tariniguzars* are there in all ;

(c) what are the reasons for which the *tariniguzars* with less cattle than 25 have been deprived of grant of land ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No one in the Pir Mahal area has been able to prove that he has paid *tarini* regularly for 25 cattle ; 55 persons possess proof of having paid such *tarini* for at least one year ;

(*b*) This depends on the meaning attached to the term "*tariniguzar*" ; there are few, if any, *tariniguzars* in that tract whose livelihood was habitually and entirely dependent on grazing cattle in the areas now being brought under colonization ;

(*c*) No *tariniguzars* are being deprived of any grant of land ; it is proposed to give grants to those whose livelihood was habitually and entirely dependent on grazing cattle in these areas.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ABOVE 55 YEARS.

***342. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total number of Government servants in this province under the Punjab Government that are over 55 years of age ;

(*b*) how much per month they are drawing in salaries and allowances ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that a very large saving would be effected if they are made to retire ;

(*d*) what would be the total economy so effected if the age-limit rule is strictly enforced ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) and (*b*) The answer to this part of the question would involve an amount of labour out of all proportion to the value of the information received.

(*c*) and (*d*) To give an answer would involve actuarial investigations on a scale which Government is not prepared to undertake. I am of the opinion that in the end the proposal, so far from effecting economy, would involve Government in extra expenditure.

AGE-LIMIT FOR RETIREMENT FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

***343. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a large saving in expenditure will be effected if the age-limit for retirement from Government service is lowered from 55 to 50 ;

(*b*) whether the Government has ever considered the question of lowering the age-limit for retirement from the point of economy ;

(*c*) if not, what are the reasons for not doing it ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 342 (above).

GRANT OF LAND TO *TARINIGUZARS*.

***344. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that those temporary cultivators who cultivated Government land for 6 to 8 crops in Sandal and Ganji Bars were granted half of that land ;

(*b*) whether Government is aware that *tariniguzars* of those areas were granted half a square per each male person ;

(*c*) whether the Government is also aware that no land has been granted to *tariniguzars* of Pir Mahal so far ;

(*d*) if so, why ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) In the Lower Chenab Canal Colony no such concessions were granted.

In the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony many local lessees, who had held land on temporary cultivation terms for eight or more harvests, were selected for grants, because it was considered that they would make satisfactory colonists.

(*b*) In the Lower Chenab Canal and Lower Bari Doab Canal Colonies every effort was made to give half a square or rectangle to every *tariniguzar*, whose livelihood was habitually and entirely dependent on grazing cattle in the areas coming under colonization.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Because the lists are not yet ready.

GOVERNMENT PRESS MONO-OPERATORS.

***345. Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in 1927, the mono-operators of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, were ordered to give an outturn of "6,500 ens" per hour according to that obtaining in the Government of India Presses ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that at the time of ordering the outturn mentioned in (*a*), a promise was held out to them that they would be given the same salary as that obtaining in the Government of India Presses ;

(*c*) if so, whether they have been given the salary according to the Government of India scale ; and, if not, why not ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No

(*c*) No ; the working hours in the Government of India Press are more than in the Punjab Press.

GOVERNMENT PRESS MONO-OPERATORS.

***346. Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in calculating the outturn of the mono-operators of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, the blanks are not counted ;

[Mr. M. A. Ghani.]

(*b*) whether it is a fact that before 1927, the blanks were counted;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) be in the affirmative, the reasons for not counting them?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The deduction makes no difference in the salaries of monotype operators who are not employed on piece-work.

GOVERNMENT PRESS MONO-OPERATORS.

***347. Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent, Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, recommended to Government an increase in the salaries of the mono-operators of his Press;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) be in the affirmative, the reasons for not accepting the recommendation of the Superintendent?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) Yes: on the basis of an increase in the number of working hours.

(*b*) Financial, as the scheme involves additional expenditure.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING PRESS UNION.

***348. Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the Superintendent of the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, ordered the workers of the Press "not to see and have anything to do" with any honourable member of the Punjab Legislative Council;

(*b*) whether the Government is also aware that the order of the Superintendent was designed against the Union leader of the Punjab Government Printing Press Workers' Union who is a member of the Punjab Legislative Council;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that as a result of the Superintendent's orders the members of the Union mentioned in (*b*) have been deterred from seeing their Union leader;

(*d*) under what authority was the said order issued;

(*e*) whether Government intend to take any action in the matter;

(*f*) whether Government will place a copy of the said order on the table?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) No. Government servants are precluded from approaching members of the legislatures with a view to having their individual grievances made the subject of interpellations in the Chambers as the practice is almost always likely to result in a breach of rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

(*d*) Government's.

(*e*) and (*f*) No.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : Cannot Government servants see members of this Council in some capacity other than as members of this Council ?

Mr. Abdul Ghani : As friends, relatives or as clients ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : They may, if they like.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : Were not the Government Press workers asked not to go and see the leader of their union ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I have already said, no.

GOVERNMENT PRESS, LAHORE.

*349. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when was the present incumbent of the post of the Superintendent, Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, appointed ;

(*b*) at what salary was he then appointed ;

(*c*) what is his present salary ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) 2nd March 1914.

(*b*) Rs. 500—20—700.

(*c*) Rs. 1,000—50—1250.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : What is the reason for giving him such rapid promotion from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,250 in such a short time ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Seventeen years is not a short time.

MR. MARTIN, GOVERNMENT PRESS, LAHORE.

*350. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Martin, a Reader in the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, has been dismissed ;

(*b*) reasons for his dismissal ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) For being absent from duty without permission.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : May I know how long he has been absent without permission ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I am afraid I cannot satisfy the curiosity of the honourable member without notice.

HEADMASTER, CENTRAL MODEL SCHOOL, LAHORE.

***351. Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) for how long has the present Headmaster of the Central Model School, Lahore, been in that school;

(*b*) the reasons for keeping him there for such a long time?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) The post of Headmaster, Central Model School, Lahore, is vacant, and the 2nd Master has been officiating as Headmaster since 1st January, 1930. The latter has been in the school since 25th April, 1922.

(*b*) Because he is considered fit for retention in the school.

GOVERNMENT PRESS, LAHORE.

***352. Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government Printing Press, Lahore, is generally closed on Saturdays at 2 o'clock;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the mono-operators of the Press are not allowed to leave their work at 2 o'clock on Saturdays along with other workers; and, if so, why?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Not generally, but when the state of work permits.

(*b*) They are, when the state of work permits.

MR. IQBAL SINGH, CIRCLE REGISTRAR, LYALLPUR.

***353. Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Iqbal Singh, Circle Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Lyallpur, was suspended from service in 1928;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that an enquiry was held by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab, into his conduct;

(*c*) if so, what were the charges made against Mr. Iqbal Singh;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Registrar found him guilty of all the charges;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Iqbal Singh has neither been dismissed nor has he been punished in any other way;

(*f*) the reasons for (*i*) not punishing him departmentally and (*ii*) not handing him over to the police?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A statement is laid upon the table.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No; Sardar Iqbal Singh has been severely punished.

(*f*) Does not arise.

Charges framed against S. Iqbal Singh.

(1) Being a Disbursing Officer, S. Iqbal Singh neglected his duties of supervising his office accounts.

(2) An embezzlement of pay and contingencies having occurred in his office and having come to his knowledge, he deliberately made a false report to the Registrar, Co-operative Societies to the effect that an embezzlement had not occurred.

(3) He further concealed the embezzlements by the following means :—

(*a*) He himself paid the sums due from his own pocket.

(*b*) He removed and destroyed a page from the *dak-behi* of the Inspector, Jhang.

(*c*) He caused to be removed, and himself destroyed two pages from the *dak-behi* of the Inspector, Samundri, and caused false entries to be substituted therein.

(*d*) He caused the offices of Inspectors, Samundri, Jaranwala, Jhang, Shorkot and Gojra to send in false reports of amounts outstanding against his office.

(*e*) He made or caused to be made erasures of the Auditors' signatures in his office contingent ledger and caused the Auditor to substitute new signatures, with the original date, below entries subsequently made.

(*f*) He caused the Auditor of his office accounts (the Inspector, Lyallpur) to make a false report as to the state of affairs.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : May I know why Mr. Iqbal Singh has not been handed over to the police ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is already stated in the answer.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : What punishment was meted out to Mr. Iqbal Singh ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Notice.

MR. HARI CHAND, JUDICIAL RECORD INSPECTION MUHARRIR.

***354. Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Hari Chand, the Judicial Record Inspection Muharrir, District Court, Lahore, entered Government service on the 27th of April 1897 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he has been made permanent on and from October 29, 1929 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that he is due to retire on the 31st August 1931 ;

(*d*) reasons for not making him permanent from the date of his entering Government service ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No. His service book shows that his service commenced from 1st September, 1907.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No. He will attain the age of 60 years on the 15th August, 1934, and can be retained in service upto that date.

(*d*) Orders were issued in October, 1929, that the permanent Record Room staff in District Offices which was formerly non-pensionable should be made pensionable, and it was decided that the orders should have effect from the date of issue.

Mr. M. A. Ghani: May I know why the orders were not given retrospective effect from the time of the appointment?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Because it would have involved unnecessary expenditure.

LALA HARI CHAND, ASSISTANT JAILOR, SHAHPUR.

***355. Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Lala Hari Chand, Assistant Jailor, Shahpur, was recommended for dismissal by Lieutenant-Colonel Swan, I. M. S., for demanding illegal gratification from a relative of a convict;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he was allowed to resign from his post at his own request;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that he was re-employed as a teacher in the Delhi Jail, and on the abolition of this post, he has been re-appointed as Assistant Jailor;

(*d*) the reasons for his re-appointment as Assistant Jailor;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that Lala Hari Chand has been assigned seniority above those Assistant Jailors who were senior to him before his re-appointment;

(*f*) if so, the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) It is not the practice to disclose recommendations by subordinate authorities. The Inspector-General, in view of the fact that it was a first offence, awarded a severe reprimand only.

(*b*) Lala Hari Chand submitted his resignation, but the Inspector-General asked him if he would care to withdraw it if transferred to another jail, and he agreed.

(*c*) Lala Hari Chand was then transferred to Delhi as a teacher, and later was posted as Assistant Jailor.

(*d*) No reasons are on record.

(*e*) His position on the Gradation List was made senior to the Assistant Jailors referred to in 1909.

(*f*) No reasons for (*e*) are on record.

Mr. M. A. Ghani: In view of the answer given to part (*a*) of my question, may I know what the Parliamentary practice is in this respect, whether the recommendations made by subordinate authorities are disclosed in answer to a question in the House or not?

Mr. President: It is for the Government Member to decide whether it is in the public interest to divulge a certain information. The Chair cannot interfere in the matter.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Does the Government consider it sufficient to reprimand an officer for taking illegal gratification? Is that the policy?

Mr. President : A questions about policy cannot be asked.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Does Government consider it enough to reprimand an officer for taking illegal gratification ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The incident referred to in the question took place, as far as I am aware, 22 years ago. I am hardly responsible for it.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS.

***356. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons were convicted in this province under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, 124, Indian Penal Code, and Criminal Law Amendment Act from the start of Civil Disobedience Movement ;

(*b*) how many out of these were placed in A class, and how many in B class ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik :

(*a*) Under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code ..	789
Under section 124-A, Indian Penal Code ..	139
Under sections 17 (1) and 17 (2) of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908	687

	Class "A."	*Class "B."*
(*b*) Under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code	26	50
Under section 124-A, Indian Penal Code	24	35
Under sections 17 (1) and 17 (2) of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 ..	7	17

OIL AND SOAP FOR PRISONERS.

***357. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) whether non-Sikh prisoners are supplied with oil and soap for bathing purposes ;

(*b*) whether these prisoners are allowed to use their own oil and soap ;

(*c*) whether Government has received complaints regarding the supply of oil and soap from any of the prisoners ;

(*d*) if so, what action has Government taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Class C non-Sikh prisoners are supplied with soap nuts for washing their clothes, but not with oil.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

BLANKETS FOR PRISONERS RELEASED IN WINTER.

***358. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) whether there is any rule that the prisoners when they are released in winter, are to be supplied blankets to protect them against cold ;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, whether this rule was observed in the case of prisoners who were released from the new Central (habitual) Jail, Multan, this winter ; if not, why not ;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative whether Government intend to make any arrangements for protection of prisoners from cold when they are released in winter ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to paragraph 527 of the Punjab Jail Manual.

" GANDHI CAPS " IN JAILS.

***359. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any order was recently circulated for taking off of Gandhi caps from prisoners in jails ;

(*b*) whether prisoners undergoing simple imprisonment are entitled to use their own clothing ;

(*c*) whether Gandhi caps were removed by force in some of the jails from such prisoners ;

(*d*) whether some of the prisoners went on hunger strike and some put off all their clothes (except *langote*) in protest against the forcible removal of Gandhi caps ;

(*e*) how many prisoners put off their clothes in Qasur Jail, and for what period ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that Government itself has been supplying Gandhi caps to the prisoners, as a part of the jail dress ;

(*g*) if the answer to (*f*) is in the affirmative, what were the reasons which led to the order of removal of Gandhi caps ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, but this concession does not cover the wearing of political symbols, which are strictly prohibited.

(*c*) The caps were taken from the prisoners.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) About eighty prisoners. The exact period is not known.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) These caps were replaced by the " sealed pattern " cap which is issued as an alternative to the " puggree. "

1914-15 CONSPIRACY CASE PRISONERS.

***360. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of prisoners convicted in the conspiracy cases of 1914-15, who are still in jail ;

(*b*) how many of these have served more than 14 years' imprisonment ;

(*c*) when the Government intends to release these prisoners ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) 18.

(*b*) 18.

(*c*) I am not at present in a position to make any statement on this subject.

WARM CLOTHING FOR PRISONERS.

***361. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether warm coats were supplied to A class and B class prisoners of the Punjab ;

(*b*) whether the coats supplied were made of ordinary blankets of inferior kind ;

(*c*) whether the special class prisoners refused to wear such coats and went without warm coats in protest ;

(*d*) what kind of warm coats are supplied to European prisoners by the jail authorities ;

(*e*) whether the coats supplied to European prisoners are of superior stuff ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The coats are made of superior blanket cloth.

(*c*) With the exception of a few prisoners in the Gujrat Special Jail, who were allowed to wear their own private coats in lieu thereof, no other prisoners refused to wear the jail made overcoat.

(*d*) European prisoners are supplied with a short warm coat.

(*e*) The material used for these coats is millmade khaki serge.

Lala Chetan Anand : Will the Honourable Finance Member say whether the material used for coats of A class prisoners is the same as the material used for coats of European prisoners ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It depends on whether the A class prisoner wears European clothes or Indian clothes. If he wears European clothes he gets the same coat as the European prisoners.

FRONTIER PRISONERS IN GUJRAT SPECIAL JAIL.

***362. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) whether the interviews of Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan, Khan Abdul Akbar Khan and other Frontier prisoners confined in Special Jail, Gujrat, have been stopped ;

[Lala Chetan Anand].

(b) if so, by whose orders, and what are the reasons for such an action ;

(c) if any correspondence has passed between the Punjab Government and the authorities of the North-West Frontier, whether it will be placed on the table ;

(d) for what period the orders stopping the interviews are to remain in force ;

(e) whether the orders have been communicated to the prisoners concerned ; if so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Yes.

(b) Under the orders of the Administration of the North-West Frontier Province communicated to the Superintendent of the Jail. This Government has no information as regards the reasons for those orders.

(c) Government is unable to lay any correspondence of this nature on the table.

(d) No definite period can at present be stated.

(e) Government has no information on this point.

KHAN NIAMUT ULLAH KHAN.

***363. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(a) whether Khan Niamut Ullah Khan who was held responsible by the Jails Committee for the assault on Lala Bodh Raj, M.A., LL.B., a member of this Council and a non-official visitor of jails in the year 1925, was made to retire compulsorily ;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for his compulsory retirement ;

(c) whether he has again been taken in service and if so, what are the reasons for such an action ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) No.

(b) In carrying out the policy of substituting Deputy Superintendents for Jailors, certain jailors including Khan Niamut Ullah Khan were retired before completing their full terms of 30 years' service.

(c) Yes for a limited period, because the Jail Department was temporarily in need of an experienced jailor.

SARDAR AMAR SINGH, GUJRAT SPECIAL JAIL.

***364. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one S. Amar Singh, a jail official of Special Jail, Gujrat, misappropriated some money from the accounts of the A class political prisoners ;

(b) if so, what is the amount and whether it has been recovered from the officials responsible for such a neglect of duty ;

(c) whether the prisoners concerned have been refunded the money misappropriated ; and, if not, when is that money to be refunded to them ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a), (b) and (c) The matter is under investigation by the Examiner, Local Fund Accounts, Punjab. No further information on this matter can be communicated at this stage.

STAMPS FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SPECIAL JAIL, GUJRAT.

***365. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the postal stamps received by the Superintendent, Special Jail, Gujrat, for certain political prisoners confined there have been credited to the account of Government ;

(b) whether the amount of those stamps has been credited to the accounts of prisoners concerned ; and, if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) In one case only, because the stamps were recovered from a closed cover addressed to the prisoner without any covering letter and were, therefore, disposed of in the manner indicated in paragraph 500 of the Punjab Jail Manual, since stamps so received are prohibited articles within the meaning of sections 42 and 45 (12) of the Prisoners' Act, 1894.

(b) Does not arise.

PUNISHMENTS TO DELINQUENT NUMBERDARS.

***366. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many numberdars were sent to the lock-up for non-payment of Government demands on due dates in the Punjab in general and Lahore district in particular ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of numberdars were abused and beaten or otherwise disgraced, and some were suspended and others dismissed by tahsildars and revenue officers on account of their inability to pay the land revenue on dates fixed ;

(c) whether a numberdar so treated has ever reported the matter to higher authorities ; if so, with what result ;

(d) how many of the numberdars were suspended and how many dismissed ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : As the honourable member has not specified any period, it is not possible to answer his questions.

ABIANA ON THE LOWER CHENAB COLONY.

***367. Mian Nurullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what was the duty (the area in acres that was to be irrigated per cusec of water) fixed in the early days of colonization on the Lower Chenab Colony;

(*b*) has the duty been altered since;

(*c*) what is the duty at present;

(*d*) under what law was the alteration made?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) The full supply factor, *i.e.*, the area it is assumed that one cusec of capacity at distributary heads will irrigate taken from the 1907 capacity statements of the Lower Chenab Canal varied from 160 to 225 acres for perennial channels.

(*b*) These figures have been varied in subsequent consideration of the capacity to bring them more into line with actual figures obtained in practice.

(*c*) The figure at present used for all perennial channels except certain areas in the Jhang division is 240 acres.

(*d*) These figures have no legal basis.

AUCTION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

***368. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram**: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the agricultural lands of the Indian Christians of Khuspur, district Lyallpur, are being auctioned at very low prices in execution of decrees;

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government proposes to take in the matter?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) No. The Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur reports that no land of the Indian Christians of Khuspur has been auctioned in execution of decrees.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: As the Indian Christians of Khuspur are very poor, will the Honourable Member issue a circular that their lands should not be auctioned in execution of decrees?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Does the honourable member expect me to issue instructions which may be contrary to existing legal enactments?

CHRISTIAN REPRESENTATION ON FEROZEPORE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

***369. Lala Nihal Chand Aggarwal:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that within the Municipality of Ferozepore hundreds of propertied Christians reside;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that previously the Christian community enjoyed representation on the Ferozepore Municipal Committee by nomination ; if so, from what period to what period ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that for the last several years no nomination has been made to the Committee from among the Christians ; if so, why ;

(*d*) whether the Government intend to give the Christian community a representation on the Ferozepore Municipal Committee ; if so, what ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes. Because the Christian community according to the census of 1921, consisted of only 197 persons, of whom only four or five were in possession of property worth more than Rs. 200.

(*d*) No.

CLOTHING PROVIDED TO PRISONERS.

***370. Lala Nihal Chand Aggarwal :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the summer and winter clothing provided to prisoners of European nationality now classed as B prisoners ;

(*b*) Indian prisoners classed A and B class prisoners, both who live in Indian style and European style ;

(*c*) whether there is any difference between the quality of the material supplied for the classes of prisoners referred to in (*a*) and (*b*) ;

(*d*) what is the difference in the cost of the two materials and whether this distinction is based on grounds of nationality ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) The honourable member's attention is invited to Part II of paragraph 969 of the Punjab Jail Manual.

(*b*) The Indian prisoners who live in the European style are entitled to the same clothing as European convicts, but those who live in the Eastern style are provided with clothing according to the scale mentioned in letter No. 534-C/46.-Pr., dated 22nd April 1930, from the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, to all Superintendents of jails in the Punjab, a copy of which was laid on the table in answer to Lala Kesho Ram Sekhri's starred question[1] No. 2986 of 22nd July 1930.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) There is no difference in the scale of clothing. In both cases it is identical, but as European clothing is more expensive than Indian clothing, the cost is slightly greater.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Is it possible for prisoners using the English style of clothing to claim European food ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Prisoners of A class can claim European food.

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SUPERINTENDENT, BORSTAL INSTITUTION, LAHORE.

***371. Lala Nihal Chand Aggarwal :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the name of the Superintendent or Superintendents who were in charge of the Borstal Institution, Lahore, during the period June 1925 to June 1930 ;

(*b*) whether the Superintendent, Borstal Institution, is provided a rent-free residence ;

(*c*) whether the officer or officers referred to in (*a*) were provided with a rent-free house during the period mentioned in the same part ;

(*d*) whether an officer provided with rent-free residence is entitled to sublet whole or a part of such residence under the rules ; and, if so, whether the rent received by him is credited to the Government ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the officer or officers referred to in (*a*) above did sublet his rent-free residence to a private individual or an Indian Chief during the whole or part of the period mentioned in (*a*) above ;

(*f*) if so, what was the amount received by this officer, and whether it was credited to Government and when ;

(*g*) if the rent was not credited to Government what action Government now propose to take to recover the amount from the officer or officers concerned ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Majors Briggs, Bhandari and Chopra.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Government officials who enjoy rent-free residences cannot sublet them to any one without obtaining the previous sanction of the Local Government in the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch.

(*e*), (*f*) and (*g*) As one of the officers concerned is at present on leave in the United Kingdom and another has left the Punjab Jail Department, it is not possible for me to answer these parts of the question, but if the honourable member will give me the name of the officer he refers to, I will go into the matter and let him know the result in due course.

SIKH REPRESENTATION IN KASUR MUNICIPALITY.

***372. Lala Nihal Chand Aggarwal :** Will the Honourable Minister or Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that out of the 13 elected seats on the Kasur Municipality there is not a single elected seat for the Sikh community ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that out of the three nominated seats on the above committee, two have been given to the Muslims and one to a Hindu and none has gone to the Sikhs ;

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, the reasons why the Sikh community has been allowed to remain unrepresented on the said municipality, and what steps the Government is going to take in the matter to rectify the wrong done to the Sikh community?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (a) Yes;

(b) Yes.

(c) While it is not a fact that a wrong has been done to the Sikh community, whose population and voting strength does not entitle them to a seat, the Government have in the past considered, and now consider, that as a rule in the absence of special conditions making it impracticable they should receive one seat; and the Commissioner is being reminded of their view.

AGE LIMIT FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE P. C. S.

***373. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan :** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the new rules framed for recruitment of candidates to the P. C. S. from the departments of the Government, the maximum age limit for the candidates has been fixed at 35 years;

(b) whether Government is aware that this will preclude almost the whole class of old Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars from being appointed to it;

(c) whether Government is also aware that this has produced intense discouragement and discontent among the old Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars;

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, whether Government intend to do away with the present age limit at least in the case of the revenue officers?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (a) Yes.

(b) This difficulty was anticipated while the new rules were under consideration and Government has reserved to itself the power to relax the rules in respect of any particular qualifications.

(c) No.

(d) No.

SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER, IRRIGATION, RUPAR HEADWORKS.

***374. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state—

(1) when the present Sub-Divisional Officer, Irrigation, took over charge of Rupar Head Works;

(2) how many Hindu and how many Muhammadan contractors he has in his sub-division;

(3) how much payment was made to Hindu and Muhammadan contractors, respectively, during the last two years;

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

(4) how many Hindu and Muhammadan employees are under him ;

(5) how much work was done during the canal closure on 8th January 1931, and what is the amount paid to Hindu and Muhammadan contractors, respectively ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan :—

(1) On 6th July 1928.

(2)	Hindus	5
	Muhammadans	4
		Rs.
(3)	1928-29—	
	Hindus	42,524
	Muhammadans	1,854
	1929-30—	
	Hindus	26,866
	Muhammadans	2,973
(4)	Hindus	47
	Muhammadans	51
		Rs.
(5)	Hindus	3,368
	Muhammadans	450

LICENSES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS IN MULTAN.

***375. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the licenses for possession of arms and ammunition of some persons were not renewed by the then District Magistrate, Multan, at the end of the year 1929 ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that licenses of three persons out of these have been renewed this year by the order of the present District Magistrate ;

(*c*) what is the occupation, and social status of these licensees, whose licenses have been renewed ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that these three persons were the servants of President, Municipal Committee, Multan, under whom the present District Magistrate had worked as Secretary of the Municipal Committee ;

(*e*) whether the licenses of any other domestic servants which were cancelled last year were renewed this year ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes

(*b*) The licenses of two such persons have been renewed this year.

(*c*) Domestic servants.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES, MULTAN.

***376. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(*a*) the list of Stipendiary Magistrates posted at Multan headquarters ;

(*b*) how many of these are Hindus ;

(*c*) whether there is any Hindu Magistrate posted at Multan headquarter ;

(*d*) the reason for not posting any Hindu Magistrate at Multan ;

(*e*) whether this fact was brought to the notice of the Government by the Hindu Sabha, Multan ;

(*f*) when the Government intends to remove this complaint of the Hindu Sabha, Multan ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (*a*) to (*d*) and (*f*) The staff of stipendiary Extra Assistant Commissioners at the headquarters of the Multan district consists of—

1 Sikh ;

1 Hindu ;

5 Muslims ;

1 Christian.

Up till December last, the district had a Hindu Section 30 Magistrate at headquarters and efforts will be made to post a Hindu Magistrate to Multan when transfers become necessary in the public interest.

(*e*) Yes.

Lala Chetan Anand : Is it a fact that the one Hindu is only an ordinary Revenue Assistant and has not been discharging the duties of a Magistrate ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : I should like to have notice of the question.

MR. DEEKS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MULTAN.

***377. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the present Deputy Commissioner, Multan (Mr. Deeks) served as a Secretary, Municipal Committee, Multan ;

(*b*) if so, from what year to what year he served as a Secretary ;

(*c*) whether he worked as Secretary under the present President of the Municipality ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that it is the practice of the Government not to post officers in charge of those districts where they have held lower posts like Secretaryship of a Municipality ;

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) is in the affirmative, why a departure from this practice was made in the case of the present Deputy Commissioner ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) From the 27th May 1916 to the 18th July 1918, and again from the 2nd May 1919 to the 4th April 1922.

(*c*) Yes, from the 29th June 1921 to the 4th April 1922 only.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

RAJA FAZAL MUHAMMAD, P. E. S.

***378. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Raja Fazal Muhammad, P. E. S., has been given selection grade (provisional) superseding about twenty officers above him ;

(*b*) the reasons for his superseding so many officers ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : The honourable member is referred to the answer given to part (*b*) of starred Council question[1] No. 324.

PROMOTION TO THE SELECTION GRADE OF THE P. E. S.

***379. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government has issued a circular in which certain principles are laid down which Government intends to observe in regulating promotion to the selection grade of the Provincial Educational Service ; if so, whether the Government will please lay a copy of that circular on the table ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that according to the circular above referred to, the length of service under Government whether in Subordinate Educational Service or Provincial Educational Service will be one of the main considerations for promotion to selection grade ; if so, whether the Government will please state if they propose to apply the same principles to promotions in other services also ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) A demi-official correspondence did take place between the Director of Public Instruction and those concerned. It is not in the public interest that demi-official correspondence should be made public.

(*b*) Length of service is one of the matters which will be taken into consideration at the time of promotion to selection grade, and Government intend to incorporate in the rules of the new Punjab Educational Service a proviso that officers should reach a certain age before being regarded as eligible for promotion to selection grade. There is no selection grade in the Subordinate Educational Service.

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[1] Page 548 *ante*.

OCCUPANCY RIGHTS IN LODHRAN TAHSIL GRANTED TO INHABITANTS OF HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

***380. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that occupancy rights in 300 squares of land, situated in Lodhran tahsil, Multan, were granted to inhabitants of Hoshiarpur district, in view of their small holdings and in lieu of their lands being submerged in the " Chuws" ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that the conditions were not fully defined at the time of grant ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that Rs. 75 as *malkana* besides land revenue was imposed on these tenants after one year of their occupation ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that these tenants have submitted a memorial to the Government for remission of this *malkana* ;

(*e*) if so, what action Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) 250 and 150 rectangles were allotted to Hoshiarpur district for peasant grantees who were to be selected from among those (*i*) who had suffered from river, choor nala action or (*ii*) whose holdings were very small.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No separate action is contemplated in the case of Hoshiarpur grantees.

DISTRICT BOARD ENGINEER, MUZAFFARGARH.

***381. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules in existence for the appointment of District Board Engineer, Muzaffargarh, and whether the appointment is subject to the approval of the Superintending Engineer ;

(*b*) whether the present District Board Engineer, Muzaffargarh, possesses necessary technical and other qualifications, and whether his appointment has been approved of by the Superintending Engineer ;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the negative, since how long the present incumbent has been holding the post ;

(*d*) whether this post of District Board Engineer was filled, the appointment was advertised and whether the candidate just selected by the District Board was not approved by the Commissioner, if so, why ;

(*e*) whether Government intends to take any action in the matter ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I regret that the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

KRISHAN KUMAR, C. CLASS PRISONER.

***382. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that Krishan Kumar, son of Seth Dasu Ram of Hussain Agahi, Multan City, was ordered to execute a bond under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, on 22nd October 1930, by Sardar Balwant Singh, Nalwa, Additional District Magistrate, Multan, and in default was sentenced to a term of imprisonment ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the said Krishan Kumar is the proprietor of the firm Seth Wasu Ram-Dasu Ram of Hussain Agahi, Multan City, which pays an income-tax of more than Rs. 100 ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that the said Krishan Kumar has been given C class by the Magistrate ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the relations of Krishan Kumar have applied to the Government for raising the class of Krishan Kumar ;

(*e*) if so, what action Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) He is said to be joint proprietor with his two brothers of a colou shop and the three paid Rs. 115 as income-tax last year.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Government examined the case but found no reason for interfering with the classification made by the courts.

MR. NAZAR MUHAMMAD QURESHI, OFFICE OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL, POLICE.

***383. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Nazar Muhammad, Qureshi, an assistant in the office of Inspector-General of Police, resigned his post in 1919 ; if so, why ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that Mrs. Nazar Muhammad submitted a memorial to Inspector-General of Police praying that a pension may be granted to her husband in view of his long service ;

(*c*) if so, what action was taken on Mrs. Nazar Muhammad's memorial ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) The person named, who was an assistant in Central Police Office, resigned his post in 1920 to evade departmental punishment.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

TRANSFER OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

***384. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether there is any fixed period for which Civil Surgeons, Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons can remain attached to a certain station ;

(*b*) if so, whether there are any Civil Surgeons or Assistant Surgeons or Sub-Assistant Surgeons who have over-stayed this fixed period ;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take with a view to their transfer at an early date ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) For Civil Surgeons no maximum period is fixed for which they can hold charge of a district. As laid down in paragraphs 135-B and 183 of the Punjab Medical Manual, Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgens may not, except for special reasons, hold charge of the same hospital or dispensary for over 5 years. The usual practice, however, is to transfer an Assistant Surgeon after 3 years. There is no general rule fixing the period for which such officers when not in charge of a hospital, may remain posted in the same station.

(*b*) Yes, there are 5 Assistant Surgeons and 16 Sub-Assistant Surgeons who have overstayed the period of 5 years.

(*c*) One Assistant Surgeon has been exempted permanently for special reasons from the operation of the 5 year rule. There are special reasons why 10 of the 16 Sub-Assistant Surgeons mentioned in (*b*) may be kept on in their present posts for some time longer. As regards the other Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons mentioned in (*b*), arrangements will be made for their transfer as occasion offers.

MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE PUNJAB UNIVERSITY.

*385. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Muslim officers in the office of the Punjab University as compared with officers from other communities employed there;

(*b*) if the number of Muslim officers be nil or small what action Government propose to take for increasing the number of Muslim officers in the office of the Punjab Univeristy?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Muslims 7; others 28.

(*b*) The University has not accepted the communal principle in its appointments but, compatible with efficiency, it is reported to make every effort to give preference to members of backward communities if all other things are about equal.

INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE, PASRUR.

*386. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware of the fact that the administrative side of the Intermediate College, Pasrur, is in a state of mismanagement;

(*b*) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Government has been made aware of certain criticisms of the management of the College, and will take such action as may appear, upon enquiry, to be necessary.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

*387. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly lay on the table a statement showing —

(*a*) the number of public prosecutors in the Punjab;

(*b*) the total amount of their emoluments;

(*c*) the period of service each public prosecutor has put in?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) Thirty.

(*b*) Rs. 23,750 per mensem.

(c) A statement is laid on the table :—

STATEMENT.

	Years.	Months.	Days.
1. High Court	8	10	0
2. Ambala	10	6	6
3. Amritsar	0	5	14
4. Attock	17	3	19
5. Dera Ghazi Khan	1	7	9
6. Ferozepore	12	11	14
7. Gujranwala	11	10	10
8. Gujrat	11	10	14
9. Gurdaspur	17	1	19
10. Gurgaon	0	5	0
11. Hissar	3	5	0
12. Hoshiarpur	0	5	0
13. Jhang	0	3	9
14. Jhelum	8	0	7
15. Jullundur	13	10	21
16. Kangra	8	7	0
17. Karnal	8	4	22
18. Lahore I	15	11	0
19. Lahore II	12	10	4
20. Ludhiana	0	1	6
21. Lyallpur	11	2	12
22. Mianwali	3	11	6
23. Montgomery	13	6	0
24. Multan	22	5	6
25. Muzaffargarh	1	9	21
26. Rawalpindi	4	4	8
27. Rohtak	1	11	0
28. Shahpur	13	0	7
29. Sheikhupura	9	5	7
30. Sialkot	7	9	10

(NOTE.—Period of service has been calculated upto 7th March 1931.)

CERTAIN POSTS HELD BY NON-MUSLIMS.

*388. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state the period during which non-Muslims have occupied the following posts ever since these were created :—

(1) District Judge, Hoshiarpur,
(2) Registrar, Punjab University,
(3) Joint Registrar, Punjab University,
(4) Director of Industries, Punjab,
(5) Superintendent of the Office of Commissioner, Jullundur Division,
(6) Superintendent of the English Office of Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur, and
(7) Tahsildar, Jullundur ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : Government regret that they are unable to undertake the collection of the information asked for by the honourable member as the labour involved would be out of proportion to the value of the information.

BEGGARY.

*389. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend to take any action in the matter of putting a stop to the practice of beggary in the province ;
(*b*) if so, what ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A special committee was appointed by Government to discuss the matter in all its bearings and to submit a report. The Committee's report, a copy of which is laid on the table, has since been considered by Government, and subsequently the attention of the local bodies was drawn to the seriousness of the problem, and to the facts elicited during the discussions of the committee, and their opinions on the problem were invited. These have been received and are being examined with a view to legislation.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the problem of begging in the Punjab.

In the summer of 1927 it was decided to convene a committee to investigate the question of beggary and poor relief in the Punjab, and a committee was constituted as follows :—

(1) Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government (*Chairman*).
(2) Honourable Member for Finance.
(3) Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, M. L. C.
(4) Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath, M. L. C.
(5) Chaudhri Afzal Haq, M.L. C.
(6) Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal, M. L. C.
(7) Mr. E. Maya Das, M. L. C.
(8) Secretary, Transferred Departments.

2. A preliminary meeting was held on the 15th September 1927, at which it was decided that enquiries should be made from Bengal, Madras, Bombay and Ceylon as to the law with regard to vagrancy and begging in those provinces, and that an attempt should be made to obtain figures as to the number of beggars in the towns of the Punjab.

3. Papers were obtained from the provinces in question and circulated to all members of the committee in September 1928.

4. The second meeting of the committee was held on the 22nd November 1928, and it was decided that the papers which had been circulated to the members of tho committee should also be sent to the Presidents of the committees of the larger municipalities in the province and to the Deputy Commissioner, Criminal Tribes, and the Reclamation Officer, and that an invitation should be sent to these gentlemen to be present at the next meeting of the committee.

5. The third meeting of the committee was held on the 7th January 1929. The Presidents of the municipal committees of Lahore, Jullundur and Gujranwala and the Deputy Commissioner of Criminal Tribes were present in response to the invitation issued, and a general discussion took place.

6. As a result of such discussion, certain definite questions were formulated, and it was decided that a decision on these specific questions should be recorded at the subsequent meeting of the committee.

7. The fourth meeting of the committee was held on the 1st February 1929, and the following conclusions were reached :—

(1) It was agreed that legislation in some form is necessary to cope with the problem of beggary.

(2) It was agreed that such legislation should cover—

(*a*) able-bodied beggars,

(*b*) infirm beggars, and

(*c*) children.

It was brought to the notice of the meeting that in dealing with beggars in general special attention will have to be paid to the question of immigrant beggars, who come into the province from outside for a certain period and then return to their homes with the proceeds of their begging.

(3) It was decided that the method of dealing with each class of beggars after detention should be on the following lines :—

(*a*) Able-bodied beggars. After detention in some form of receiving house these should be sent to something in the nature of reclamation farms or settlements on the lines of those at present being carried on by the Criminal Tribes Department and the Reclamation Officer.

(*b*) For infirm beggars it was decided that infirmaries would be necessary.

(*c*) As regards children, it was felt that these could be dealt with by being sent to industrial schools or orphanages maintained by private associations.

[Hon. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

It was also decided that legislation should be directed against persons who employed children and sent them out to beg.

(4) On the question of finance, it was felt that the cost of any scheme must be met partly by grants from Government and partly by grants from local bodies. It was also considered advisable that some provision should be included in any legislation to the effect that the property, if any, of any beggar maintained in an institution or sent to a reclamation farm should be required to contribute to the cost of maintenance of the beggar something on the same lines as is now done in the case of patients in mental hospitals.

(5) As regards the respective functions of Government and local bodies in the organization and control of any institution that might be considered necessary, it was decided that the institutions should ordinarily be under the local bodies, but that Government should exercise some control and that powers should be taken in the proposed legislation for Government to require a local body to take action.

(6) The committee were of opinion that the control of begging inside shrines and other religious institutions, and in the immediate vicinity of such shrines and institutions, should be vested in the trustees of such institutions, but that in streets and public places religious mendicants could not be treated differently from other beggars.

(7) The committee were of opinion that in any proposed legislation the definition of beggar and begging would have to be very carefully worded.

FIROZ KHAN, NOON—2-3-29. A. M. STOW.

MUHAMMAD IQBAL. AFZAL HAQ.

E. MAYA DAS.

NARENDRA NATH, ALAN MITCHELL.

subject to the following remarks.

G. C. NARANG,

subject to the following note.

I am very doubtful as to the expediency or even the utility of legislation, and unless the Bill is drafted, I am unable to say, whether any effective means to stop begging can be adopted.

NARENDRA NATH.

I am in general agreement with the report but there is one point on which I feel grave doubts and that is the question of religious mendicants. There is a class of people who not only live upon begging, but have to live upon begging as a religious duty. Special provisions will have to be made about them. I trust this matter will be kept in view when drafting a Bill on the subject.

G. C. NARANG.

LOCUSTS.

***390. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that swarms of locusts visited the province in 1930 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that these visitations led to a complete or partial ruination of the crops in many parts of the province ;

(*c*) if so, what scientific measures Government propose to adopt for the destruction of locusts in the province ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is true that considerable damage was done.

(*c*) A number of measures was tested but the only scientific one that proved successful was fluo silicate poison and Government has arranged for a stock of this poison to be kept for future use. Recent experience has, however, amply proved that the most effective measure for the destruction of locusts is the digging of trenches by the people of the threatened area.

DISTRICT BOARD HIGH SCHOOL AT NAKODAR.

***391. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend to provincialise the District Board High School at Nakodar ;

(*b*) if so, when ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) No funds are available at present for the provincialisation of schools.

(*b*) Does not arise.

RELIEF TO ZAMINDARS ON ACCOUNT OF FALL IN PRICES.

***392. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the zamindars have suffered a heavy loss on account of the unprecedented fall in the prices of agricultural produce ;

(*b*) whether it is proposed to give relief to the zamindars ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The zamindars have undoubtedly been affected by the fall in prices.

(*b*) Liberal concessions involving remission of approximately 28 lakhs were given during the last *kharif*. Government is watching the situation carefully and should the necessity arise will give such relief as the circumstances may require.

TRAINING COLLEGES.

***393. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether there is a gradual decline in the demand for trained teachers ;

(*b*) if so, whether Government propose to close down the training colleges ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The facilities for the training of teachers are being reduced.

NON-OFFICIAL PRESIDENTS OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

***394. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) the number of—
(*i*) official, and
(*ii*) non-official Presidents
of District Boards in the Punjab;

(*b*) whether it is proposed to increase the number of non-official presidents of the District Boards?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang:

(*a*) (*i*) 27.
(*ii*) 2.

(*b*) It rests with the non-official members of District Boards to increase the number of non-official chairmen. According to instructions issued in July, 1930, Government would, in the absence of special circumstances, withdraw the official chairman if a District Board after the general election passed a resolution to have a non-official chairman. Since the issue of these instructions, a general election of one District Board has been held, and that Board decided to have an official chairman; and six other Boards have also resolved to retain official chairman.

MOTOR ACCIDENTS.

***395. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the prevention or reduction of the loss of life resulting from motor accidents in the Punjab?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: All action possible under the law is, and will continue to be, taken. There are also, three mobile motor patrols constantly at work, one in the Central Range, one in the Eastern Range, and one for the Rawalpindi Division of the Western Range.

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***396. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state how many appointments or promotions made to the Provincial Educational Service during the period from 1st January, 1927 to 31st December, 1930, were given to—

(*a*) District Inspectors of Schools;
(*b*) Headmasters of Government High Schools; and
(*c*) Lecturers in Colleges separately?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon:

(*a*) District Inspectors of Schools	5
(*b*) Headmasters of Government High Schools ..	3
(*c*) Lecturers in Government Colleges	30

but it should be remembered that many of these posts were created for the purpose of instituting new Colleges.

MUSLIM DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

***397. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Muslim District Inspectors of Schools as it stood on 1st January 1927 and 1st January 1931, respectively ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon :

(1) On 1st January 1927	..	..	..	16
(2) On 1st January 1931	..	..	..	14

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SIKH EXCISE INSPECTOR AS EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.

46. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that since 1910, when the Excise Department was re-organised, 6 Muhammadans and 2 Hindus have been accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioners from amongst the Excise Inspectors and no Sikh Excise Inspector has so far been appointed an Extra Assistant Commissioner from this department ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in reply to a similar question by Sardar Bakhtawar Singh, M.L.C., of Khangarh, in the year 1923-24, the then Chief Secretary, Mr. Townsend, had given an assurance in the Council that the next chance would be given to a Sikh Excise Inspector ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that inspite of this assurance no Sikh Excise Inspector has been promoted to an Extra Assistant Commissioner's post and a new chance was again given to a Hindu Excise Inspector ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that, with effect from 1st of April 1931, two posts of Deputy Superintendents of Excise will come into existence ;

(*e*) if so, whether Government intend to appoint a Sikh Excise Inspector to one of these posts ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No such assurance was given. In reply to a similar question No. 2481[1] in 1923, by S. Balwant Singh and not by S. Bakhtawar Singh, Mr. Townsend only said that the claims of a Sikh Excise Inspector would be considered along with others.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Two new temporary posts of Superintendents of Excise have been approved subject to the sanction of the Punjab Legislative Council.

(*e*) No Sikh Excise Inspector has been provisionally selected for either of these posts.

GOVERNMENT QUARTERS AT SIMLA.

47. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has built residential quarters for its Anglo-Indian Superintendents and clerks at Simla but none for Indian Superintendents and clerks except in the case of junior clerks for whom it has converted peons' quarters into clerks' residential quarters ;

[1] Vol. V, page 5.

[Sardar Jawahar Singh Dhillon.]

(b) if so, the reasons why this differential treatment has been observed;

(c) whether it is a fact that when the quarters for the Anglo-Indian Superintendents and clerks were built, the financial position of Government was about as bad as it has ever been since then;

(d) whether the Government has not paid any attention to this need of its Indian Superintendents and clerks for want of any representation from them;

(e) whether it is a fact that it has been made compulsory for Anglo-Indians to live in these quarters;

(f) whether it is a fact that since this rule a number of Anglo-Indians have for one reason or other asked to be exempted from residing there;

(g) if so, whether Government intend to allow the Indian Superintendents and clerks to share these quarters with their Anglo-Indian colleagues?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (a) Yes.

(b) The question of constructing quarters at Simla for Indian clerks, migrating with the local Government has been under consideration for a long time, but the selection of site delayed matters. The estimate for 10 quarters (2 for Superintendents and 8 for clerks) is now ready and awaiting provision of funds.

(c) No, and at that time the numbers of establishment taken to Simla were far smaller.

(d) No.

(e) Yes, but spinsters are exempted from compulsory occupation.

(f) Yes. There have been a few isolated instances.

(g) Sharing is not possible, but vacant quarters may become available for occupation.

ASSISTANT AND DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

48. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assistant and Deputy Registrars of the Co-operative Societies are members of the Provincial Service;

(b) if so, to which service they belong?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (a) Yes, unless they are members of the Indian Civil Serivce.

(b) To the Provincial Co-operative Service.

LOCUSTS.

49. **Mr. E. Maya Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether any part of the province is at present infested with locusts ; and, if so, which ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : No.

LOCUSTS.

50. **Mr. E. Maya Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) what method or methods have been found most useful in dealing with the locusts pest ;

(*b*) what has been the total amount incurred on measures taken for destruction of locusts during the last 10 years ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Firstly, the cordial co-operation of the people with the officers of Government in digging trenches ; and, secondly, the use of fluosilicate as a poison.

(*b*) No exact figures can be given. The expenditure by Government on this account, as far as known, was Rs. 10,550 during 1929-30, and Rs. 87,628 during 1930-31 up to date.

LAHORE-MOGA ROAD.

51. **Mr. E. Maya Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the road from Lahore to Moga *via* Harike is an arterial road and in charge of the Public Works Department ;

(*b*) if so, when was it taken over by the Public Works Department ;

(*c*) since it was taken over what expenditure has been incurred by the department in maintaining the portion of the road leading to the Harike Ferry year by year ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the condition of the portion of the road mentioned in part (*c*) is not good ; and, if so, why ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : I cannot say till I hear from the local authorities who have been requested to supply the necessary information.

FINANCIAL POLICY OF LOCAL BODIES.

52. **Mr. E. Maya Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that many local bodies in the province have been utilising capital receipts for purpose of current expenditure ;

(*b*) if so, what action does Government propose taking in the matter ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) and (*b*) It is regretted that answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when it is ready.

ADULT SCHOOLS.

53. **Mr. E. Maya Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that there are complaints that adult schools exist in name, and that the expenditure incurred is more or less wasted ;

(*b*) whether it is proposed to continue adult schools during 1931-32 ;

(*c*) if so, whether Government has made any enquiry which has led it to the conclusion that the expenditure is justified, and the continuation of these schools is essential ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Such complaints have been made from time to time in the past with the result that, after enquiry, a number of these schools have been closed.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government are of opinion that the maintenance of a number of schools by district boards for adults is essential in order to prevent a relapse into illiteracy by boys and young men, especially by those living in villages. The schools are doing useful work in some places where soldiers on leave attend these schools.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN MOGA.

54. **Mr. E. Maya Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Government High School for Girls was started in Moga ;

(*b*) since then what has been the number of students on roll year by year ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) May 1927.

(*b*) May 1927	139
March 1928	147
March 1929	269
March 1930	400
February 1931	398

NEW WEIR ON THE SUTLEJ NEAR FEROZEPORE.

55. **Mr. E. Maya Das :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the new weir on the river Sutlej near Ferozepore heads up the river water ;

(*b*) if so, for how many days in the year, on the average is the water so headed up ;

(*c*) up to what distance from the weir, upstream, is the river level affected by this heading up ;

(*d*) what is the shortest distance from the centre of Ferozepore city to this accumulation of water ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes. It was constructed for this purpose.

(*b*) The water is headed up for 10 months approximately in the year.

(*c*) To a distance of 7 miles during the flood season and of 4 miles during the low river period.

(*d*) Approximately 3 miles.

WEIR ON RIVER SUTLEJ NEAR FEROZEPORE.

56. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the weir on river Sutlej near Ferozepore was built ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the sub-soil water near Ferozepore city is rising since this weir was built ;

(*c*) whether Government have taken any observation to check the rise of sub-soil water near Ferozepore city, and, if so, whether a copy of the result of these observations will be laid upon the table of the House ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) It was completed in the summer of 1927.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes, this rise of sub-soil water, from June 1928 to June 1930, is at on the average 0·5 feet per annum, neglecting seasonal variations.

CENTRAL JAIL AT FEROZEPORE.

57. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to construct a central jail at Ferozepore ;

(*b*) if so, for what reasons has the project been held up ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The project has long since been abandoned. The new jail which it was proposed to construct was intended for the reception of long term prisoners from the North-West Frontier Province. The North-West Frontier Province Administration, however, ultimately decided to construct a new jail in their own province.

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL AREAS.

58. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government makes grants for improvement of sources of drinking water supply in rural areas, where good drinking water is not available ;

[Mr. E. Maya Das.]

(b) if so, a statement showing the names of villages where such improvements have been carried out during the past 3 years, the nature of the work done, its cost, amount given by Government and contributions made by the people may be laid on the table?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : It is regretted that the requisite information is not yet available. It will be communicated to the honourable member when received.

MOTOR VEHICLE RULES.

59. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government is aware that under the existing Motor Vehicle Rules, if two persons A and B each purchase a car and pay motor tax thereon and if the next day they exchange the cars, then they are required to pay the tax afresh, which causes hardship;

(b) if so, what action Government proposes taking in the matter?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) Under rule 13 of the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Rules, 1925, 'A' and 'B' can transfer their taxation licenses to each other on payment of a fee of four annas in each case.

(b) Does not arise.

DISTRICT BOARDS' PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

60. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that district boards are authorised to open primary schools, but have not the power to close them;

(b) whether Government are considering the question of empowering district boards to close down a primary school when necessary?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is regretted that the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready

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THE PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (EXECUTIVE OFFICER) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government): Sir, I beg to present the report of the select committee on the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration ——."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Sir, I rise to a point of order. The report of the select committee has been made available to us only to-day. We must have sufficient time to go through the report and also suggest amendments, if necessary, to the Bill.

Mr. President : What time does the honourable member consider sufficient ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : The rules of procedure require that we should give two clear days' notice of amendments. We require at least two days, to-day and to-morrow, to study the report. We will be able to give notice of amendments on the 21st March. After providing for the period of notice, these amendments will be in time only on the 24th. (*A Voice* : 24th March has been fixed for the business of non-official members). The Bill may then be taken up for consideration on the 25th.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : I also object to the Bill being taken into consideration at present. My friend the member for Amritsar (Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq) was a member of the select committee and he may therefore perhaps be expected to know in advance the recommendations of the select committee. But so far as the other members are concerned, the report has been made available only to-day. It consists of twenty closely printed pages of matter, and it is not possible for us to go through this voluminous report within a short time. We do not know what amendments the select committee have introduced in the Bill, and we require some time to study the report and then to give notice of amendments to the Bill if necessary. I therefore request that the consideration of the Bill be postponed.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : As you are aware, the Bill as reported by the select committee, was in the hands of the Secretary of the Legislative Council in printed form on Monday, the 16th of March. If it had been then posted to honourable members—one copy to their home address and another to their Lahore address—it would have reached them on the 17th and they would have had plenty of time to go through the report and also the Bill as amended in the select committee. I enquired of the Secretary of the Legislative Council whether copies of the report had been sent to honourable members. I was very anxious that the honourable members should get the report as early as possible. Unfortunately the select committee sat upon this Bill for six days (*Interruption*), sat on it or over it for six days and the earliest date on which the report and the amended Bill could be made available in print was the 16th, and it was made available to the Secretary on that day. The Secretary on enquiry told me that the report had not been circulated because there was some technical objection. I should like to know whether there was any technical objection to the posting of this Bill on that day, and if not, what were the circumstances under which the copies were not posted to honourable members on that day. Because a great deal of loss of time and money is involved in adjourning the Council in order to give time to honourable members to go through the report. I fully sympathise with honourable members so far as their inability to go through the report is concerned.

[Hon. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

As regards the ground urged for the adjournment of the consideration of the Bill, namely, that if amendments were sent in to-day they will not be in time, I may draw the attention of honourable members———.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I did not say that. I said that we would not be able to give notice of amendments before the 21st.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : So far as I am concerned, I will not raise any objections to any amendment on the ground of want of notice ? Because, I think in the special circumstances of the case the rule requiring two days' notice should not be rigorously enforced. You have ample powers under Article 91 to suspend the rule and allow the amendments to be moved without insisting upon notice of two clear days. Therefore, there are now two points before you : first, whether the non-posting of the Bill to honourable members was due to any provision of law or any ruling given by you or to any other circumstances, because certainly honourable members would like to know why the Bill which could have been made available to them two days ago was not so made available. I hope you would enlighten the House on this point. The second point is as to the date to which the Council should be adjourned.

Mr. President : It was under my orders that the Bill was not circulated to the honourable members of this House. According to Parliamentary practice and also according to our own Standing Orders the report of the select committee has to be presented in the first instance to the Council and it should not be published till then. In Parliament it is considered a breach of privilege of the House to publish the proceedings of the evidence recorded by or any document presented to a select committtee until its report is presented to the House. (*Hear, hear*)

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Will you please refer me to the relevant Standing Order on the subject ?

Mr. President : The Honourable Minister is referred to paragraphs 87 (1) and 88 (1).

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I may be permitted to say a few words on this question. It is a question of great importance bearing upon the procedure in relation to the presentation of the report of the select committee. I would draw your attention to the fact that the practice of this Council, if I am not mistaken, from the very beginning of its life has been that it has not been considered necessary that the report of the select committee should first be presented to the honourable members of the Council in the Council Chamber before it can be printed. If I am not mistaken, it has also been ruled by one of your learned predecessors that no breach of privilage is involved———.

Mr. President : May I ask the Honourable Minister to refer me to that ruling ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I shall do so presently. It has been ruled by one of your honourable predecessors that no breach of privilege is involved if the report of the select committee is made available to members whether it is done by sending them copies marked 'confidential' or marked 'advance copy' or even if they are

not marked 'confidential' or 'advance copy.' Because the members of the Council, whether they are inside the Chamber or outside, are members of the Council and enjoy in this respect the same privileges and rights as they do within the four walls of this building.

Any other procedure would, I submit, be running contrary to the obvious practice of this House and also to a ruling of one of your learned and honourable predecessors. This question arose as long ago as 1923, I have got the Government file with me in which this question has been dealt with. In 1923, on the 9th February , the Secretary to the Council addressed a communication to the Chief Secretary to Government Punjab in which he drew his attention to this matter, and if you would permit me I would read that letter————————.

Mr. President : Please do read it. I have seen it.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : But the honourable members have not.

Mr. President : The practice referred to therein was not established by the Council.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is of course open to you to lay down different laws. Your powers are not being questioned.

Mr. President : I shall respect the rulings of my honourable predecessors. I have gone through the file. Please refer to Mr. Manohar Lal's opinion.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I will refer to his opinion also.

Mr. President : What the then Honourable President may have communicated to the Chief Secretary cannot be said to be the practice of the House.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : This has been the practice which has always been followed. The whole House would feel obliged. and I shall be particularly grateful if you would be pleased to point out one single instance in which this practice was departed from and a report of a select committee was kept in a closed box awaiting the next session of the Council and was not released even for the members of the House before the following session of the Council was held. So far as my experience of 7 years goes, I may point out that this practice has been consistently followed, and I do not know of a single instance where the members were kept in the dark for a length of time as to the contents of a select committee's report pending the sitting of a session of the Council, and I may just read out to you a few words from the correspondence with the Government on this point. Mr. Casson, while writing to the Government in an official letter said "There is no breach of privilege in printing up a report beforehand for the use of members. The breach is in publication to the world before presentation to the House, in other words, the House is entitled to be the first to receive the report." That proposition is now being questioned, but obviously the House does not mean this chamber, the House means the members, and therefore the Honourable President said that there is no breach of privilege in printing the report beforehand for the use of

[Hon. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]
members, the breach is in the publication to the world, and therefore if this report had been distributed to the members, I take it in the light of this ruling and in the light of previous practice, there would have been no breach of privilege.

Mr. President : May I refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 87 (1) and 88 (1) of our Business Manual ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Paragraphs 88 (1) and 87 (1) are the same as Standing Orders 43 and 44, and they were referred to in the discussion of this question, and it was pointed out by Sir Fazl-i-Husain and other members of the Government for the time being that the juxtaposition of these standing orders—of these articles—did not make any difference to that view . The Honourable President of the day agreed. I may just draw your attention to this part of the discussion—

> "I admit the force of Honourable Minister for Education (Sir Fazl-i-Husain's) argument that no inference should be drawn from the sequence of the standing orders. The proper interpretation of the standing orders and the opinion of an experienced lawyer is against me."

The President at one time had said that as the standing order regarding publication comes later and presentation comes first, therefore it should be assumed that presentation must come first before publication comes. But the opinion of the experienced lawyer referred to here (and the experienced lawyer was no other than the Deputy President for the time being, Mr. Manohar Lal) was against him, and therefore the President abandoned the contention which is now being raised by you, that the particular order in which standing orders occur justifies your action. The matter really is a question of privilege and came before—then he refers to the Presidents' Conference, perhaps that is a confidential thing and I need not read out the passage relating to that and then comes the passage, " there is no breach of privilege in printing up a report beforehand for the use of members."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (*Urdu*) : If the report of the select committee had been presented to the House on the 15th the members would have got three or four days to think over it and could discuss it here to-day, the 19th. I think the making of a report is quite a different thing from presenting it to the House.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : There is nothing confidential from the Secretary.

Mr. President : The Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government is a learned lawyer of long standing, and I am simply surprised indeed to hear from him that circulation of a document by post individually among the members of a Council or Assembly is the same thing as its presentation to the body in its corporate and collective capacity at one of its meetings.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I never said such a thing.

Mr. President : I am sorry, if I have misunderstood the Honourable Minister.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I am sorry, Sir, you did. All that I said was that sending to the honourable members of this House copies of the select committee's report is not a breach of privilege because it is being sent only to members and members outside the chamber have the same privileges as they have in the chamber.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : May I draw your attention to Standing Order 45 ? It says—

> "After the presentation of the final report of a Select Committee on a Bill, the member in charge may move.—
>
> (*a*) that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration, provided that any member of the Council may object to its being taken into consideration, if a copy of the report has not been made available for the use of members for seven days and such objection shall prevail."

I submit that this contemplates other means of communicating the report of the select committees to members and not merely by presentation in this House.

Mr. President : I request the Honourable Member to read the Standing Order he has read with the two standing orders preceding it ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Which one ?

Mr. President : The Honourable Member has read out paragraph 89 of the Business Manual. Will he please read also paragraphs 87 (1) and 88 (1) ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I have read them.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : If I may just explain what my Honourable Leader has pointed out, it is this. What he presumably means to say is that if the fact of the report being made available to the members means presentation in the Council (because otherwise it cannot be made available according to you), then if the report is made available to them for the first time in the Council and there is no other way it would require adjournment of the Council, and in this respect the practice in this country is not the same as the practice in England because in England it is possible to present the report in the House while the Parliament is sitting without disturbing the business of the Parliament because the Parliament sits for a long time there. Here the visits of the honourable members to this chamber are few and far between and the term of a session is a very short one, and therefore it is not contemplated here that the report should be necessarily presented in the chamber because otherwise it would cause an adjournment of business to the great expense of time and money.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Sir, inspite of the fact that you have mastered these Articles, I would request you to kindly see the wording of the two paragraphs. Paragraph 87 (1) says—

> " Report of the Select Committee shall be presented to the Council by the member in charge of the Bill."

the next Article says—

> " In presenting a report the member in charge shall, if he makes any remarks, confine himself to a brief statement of fact, but there shall be no debate at this stage."

[Shaikh Abdul Ghani.]

If you literally interpret these two Articles it comes to this that on the day that the report of the select committee is to be presented to the House there will be one copy with the member who is presenting the report, and it cannot be made available in any sense or in any way before that member chooses to put it before you and if we interpret the Article in that light, then it would be very difficult to attach any meaning to the Article that follows, that is—

> " The Secretary shall cause every report of a select committee, together with the minutes of dissent, if any, to be printed, and a copy of the report shall be made available for the use of every member of the Council———"

It means that these copies which we have with us to-day and which have come to us through the Secretary, these ought not to have come to us. In this case there is a breach of privilege.

Mr. President : Strictly speaking the honourable member appears to be right to this extent that the report of the select committee should have been presented to the House and the Secretary should have then received it and got it printed. The point for consideration is whether the practice of the Mother of Parliaments is right or wrong. If it is right why should the Punjab Council adopt a different practice, especially when our Standing Orders 43 and 44 clearly bear the same interpretation ?

3 P.M.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I understand your point is that publication of the proceedings of a select committee before they are presented to the House is a breach of privilege. The 'Times' newspaper in London prints or has been printing every day recently a summary of the proceedings of the select committee of the House of Commons on the Trades Disputes Bill, although the report of the Committee has not yet been presented to the House.

Mr. President : I differ. If that were the case the Editor of the newspaper would be in the Tower.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have just quoted a case which is happening every day and yet no action is taken upon it.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government has already submitted that if we followed the Parliamentary practice, which you have quoted from May's book, it would mean a considerable waste of time and expense. I may remind you that according to Parliamentary practice no Bill can be passed unless all the various stages are traversed in the same session. Unless the three readings are got through in the same session, it lapses and has to be brought afresh again. Our practice is different. A Bill can go on here from one session to another and, I presume, the framers of these rules contemplated that the Council would not be sitting continuously, but would meet at intervals.

Mr. President : That is all the more reason why my interpretation of paragraphs 87 (1) and 88 (1) is correct. Under our Standing Order 4 a Bill does not lapse for at least two sessions.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : My point is that the change in procedure would cause unnecessary delay. For instance, if the report of the select committee is held up and is not communicated to the members in advance it would necessitate an adjournment of the House for another 7 days from the date of presentation before it could be taken up for consideration. It is the established practice of this House that the Bill as it emerges from the select committee together with the committee's report is sent to members in advance so that they can read it at leisure. There has not been a single case so far during the last 10 years in which a breach of privilege or confidence has occurred. I think that for the sake of convenience as also to avoid unnecessary delay and expenditure, the practice which we have been following for the past ten years should be continued.

Mr. President : The best course would be to so amend the Standing Orders as to harmonize them with the practice based upon convenience. The argument that there is no harm in circulating confidentially the report of a select committee to the members of the Council on the assumption that no honourable member who receives it will make it public is not convincing. A Bill is made over to a select committee by the House and the report of the committee is to be presented to the House. Therefore, the Secretary ought to receive the report when it is presented to the House and not before. The report is to be presented to the House and not to the Secretary. (*The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang* : The Secretary is the Secretary of the House). Yes, but under the Standing Orders he can receive the report only when it is presented to the House.

What does publication of the report of a select committee mean ? I think it means communication to anyone for whom it is not intended, that is to say, communication to any one other than the House in its corporate capacity. (*The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang :* This is intended for the members). No, it is intended for the Council in its corporate and collective capacity.

The real point is whether I should suspend the operation of paragraph 89 and allow the motion for immediate consideration of the Bill to be moved. The report was handed over to the Secretary on the morning of 17th and has been circulated in the Council to-day. So, even if the practice on which the Honourable Minister relies were to be held valid, I do not think, I will be right in suspending the operation of paragraph 89.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : For that I depend upon your indulgence.

Mr. President : I am prepared to show every indulgence. My object is to facilitate business and not to obstruct it.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I depend upon your good sense and your indulgence.

Mr. President : My good sense is circumscribed if not altogether restricted by rules and Standing Orders in some cases. I think we should follow Parliamentary practice, especially when our Standing Orders agree with it. The argument of convenience is very strong, no doubt, but if we would follow the course of convenience we should get our Standing Orders amended. However, I am entirely in the hands of the House, and if the

[Mr. President.]

honourable members decide to follow that course in future, I shall gladly respect their wishes, though speaking for myself I would prefer to follow Parliamentary practice and not override it for the sake of convenience. In my opinion wrong practice should neither be adopted nor perpetuated

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I do not want to carry on this argument at any great length. I only wanted to point out that the course in practice had been adopted, and that in this case no breach of privilege had taken place, no disobedience of orders either on the part of the member in charge of the Bill or, if I may venture to submit, of the Secretary. We have been told that a wrong practice has been adopted so far as this Bill is concerned. I wanted to point out that if it was wrong, it only followed the practice which had been laid down by one of your learned predecessors and the practice which you yourself had been pleased to follow.

Mr. President : As soon as it came to my notice I held it to be wrong and did not allow the Secretary to follow it.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Then you were pleased to point out that the practice of Parliament was different. On that point I want to make it as clear as I can that the practice of Parliament may be different. The Mother of Parliaments lives at a distance of 7,000 miles from us, from the daughter, and the daughter is circumscribed by the environments that surround her. It was pointed out by the Honourable the Leader of the House that in England all the various stages of a Bill have to be traversed in the same session which means that in the very nature of things the session of Parliament being long, sufficiently long, it is possible to present the select committee's report for the first time before the House and then to take other action upon it by way of printing and publication. But such a thing is not possible here without waste of a great deal of money and time. That argument has been urged to show that it is not intended that the practice of the British Parliament should be followed here.

Mr. President : Our Standing Order 42 says that the report of a select committee shall be made not sooner than two months from the date of the first publication of the Bill in the Gazette. The clear intention of the Standing Order is that legislation should not be rushed through.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I thank you for suggesting to me a very valuable argument. You have referred obviously to Article 86 which says that such report shall not be made sooner than two months from the date of the first publication of the Bill in the Gazette *unless the Council orders the report to be made sooner*. Let us say that the Council session lasts from 1st January to the 31st. On the 31st of January a matter comes up and the Council says the report shall be presented within twenty days. There is no Council sitting at that time. To whom is the report to be made. It means that there is some other person to whom that report is to be made. If not, will it wait for two, three or four months and sometimes longer intervals that intervene between one session and another ?

Mr. President : But does it follow that if the Council is not in session the report must be presented to the editor of a newspaper ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : No, the Council, anxious to have the report of the select committee made earlier than two months, has suspended the Standing Order and asked the select committee to make a report earlier than two months—in this case within 15 days. If you rule that the report cannot be made, cannot be presented to anybody except to this House when it is sitting here—it may be that it may not sit for another three months—then, even though the select committee has made the report within 15 days as instructed by the Council, it cannot be presented to the Council as the Council is not sitting and will have to be locked up with the member in charge of the Bill for three months till the Council meets again, with the result that the will of the Council will be set at naught and the object of the Council in suspending the Standing Order will not be achieved.

Mr. President : Does the Honourable Minister contend that the report should be considered to have been presented to the House when it is handed over to the Secretary by the Member in charge of the Bill ? In the present case when the House instructed the select committee to submit its report by the 15th of March, it was expected that the Council would be sitting that day, but owing to unforeseen circumstances the House did not sit on the 15th.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Let us leave aside the present case for a moment and discuss the real significance of the rules. The House appoints a select committee and instructs it to report within a specified period—two or three weeks. It so happens that owing to unforeseen circumstances, either because the Council is not sitting for a sufficiently long time or, as in the present case, because the Council closed its business earlier than usual owing to rapid disposal of the demands for grants, the member in charge has not been able to present the report to the Council during the sitting of the Council. Does it mean then that the report should not be circulated to the members and that the anxiety of the Council to have the report made earlier than two months should come to nothing ?

Mr. President : It was a mere chance that the Council was not sitting on the 15th. Otherwise the Honourable Member would have easily presented the report of the select committee after the question time. In any case when on the 10th instant the Council was adjourned to the 19th, it was open to Government to suggest then that the adjournment should be to the 16th and not to the 19th, so that the report of the select committee might be presented to the Council on due date.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : At that time we had the old practice in view and we had nothing to show that it would be discontinued. I am now discussing the question in the abstract and not making any particular reference to the measure before the House. The future course of this measure is for you to decide. But I am only addressing my remarks to point out that the practice which has been followed in this House so long is a sound one and is not contrary to our Standing Orders.

Mr. President : That practice does not appear to be unsound to this extent that the Secretary may receive the report and get it printed confidentially so that simultaneously with its presentation to the House it may be circulated among the members.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Thank you for that concession at least. My next point is this. If the Secretary is authorised to receive this report, is he authorised also to get it printed ? There is no provision in the Standing Orders that the member in charge should supply so many copies to the Secretary, whereas you require so many copies for distribution among the members. Where are the copies to come from ?

Mr. President : The member in charge of the Bill or the Secretary of the Council may to save the time of the Council have the report printed confidentially, and keep its copy ready for circulation among the members on the day on which the report is formally presented to the House.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : That is only when the Council meets and, as I submitted already, it may not meet for three months.

Mr. President : If the Council does not meet for three months what is the use of circulating the report among the members ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Then, does it mean that the report should be lying idle with the member in charge or the Secretary without being printed and circulated to the members ? Suppose, then after three months there is a meeting of the Council only for 2 or 3 days, the report will be presented in the Council and the members will have only 2 days for reading the report and sending in their amendments. On the other hand, if they get copies of the report in their hands earlier, even though the Council is not sitting, they would have plenty of time to go through the report carefully and enlighten the member in charge of the Bill with their sound advice. Would not a procedure like this serve a very useful purpose ?

Mr. President : It appears that the best way to meet the difficulty is to have paragraphs 87 (1) and 88 (1) amended.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I ask you, Sir, very respectfully to quote one single instance in the last ten years ever since this Council came into existence, where this practice has not been followed ? Of course, I admit that it is open to you now to say that the practice is wrong and ought to be discontinued. Incidentally, I may say, it is rather unfortunate that the change should first be made during the course of my Bill. (*An honourable member : My* Bill ?)

Mr. President : This is the first time that the irregularity has come to my notice.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Sir, so far as this Bill is concerned, the Honourable Minister has already said that the decision about its future course rests with you. May I put one question and ask what would happen to a non-official Bill if the Council instructs the select committee to make the report on a specified date and the Council does not happen to be in session at the time ? Will the report lapse or what will happen to it ?

Mr. President : The only concession that I can make in this matter is that the Secretary may receive the report of a select committee and get it printed confidentially for circulation among the honourable members as soon as it is formally presented to the House.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : In that case the specific instruction of the House that the report ought to be made to it within a specified date will be disobeyed.

Mr. President : Paragraph 86 (2) lays down that the select committee should make its report ordinarily after two months from the date of the publication of the Bill in the Gazette or in a shorter time if so directed by the House and to make a report is not the same thing as to present it to the Council. So, I think that a report can be taken to be made when it is presented to the Secretary of the Council.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Is that your ruling ?

Mr. President : Yes.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Who is to read that report ? For whom is it intended ? I suppose even the Secretary is not to read it.

Mr. President : The honourable mover might as well say that the clerk who copies it or the typist who types it should not read it.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : May I repeat my question again ? What would happen if the Council instructs the select committee to present the report on a specified date and the Council is not sitting on that day ?

Mr. President : According to paragraph 87 (1) the report of the select committee can be presented to the House only by the member in charge of the Bill. Therefore, the Council can instruct a select committee to make its report by a certain date. It cannot ask it to present its report to the Council itself.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Do I understand your ruling to be that the report of the select committee must be made and presented to the House by the member in charge of the Bill ?

Mr. President : No. It has to be presented to the House by the member in charge of the Bill, but it is to be made by the select committee, as it is its report and not that of the member in charge.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : After the report is presented to the House it has to be printed and circulated to the members ?

Mr. President : Strictly speaking this is the right course. But with a view to accelerating business there is no harm in getting the report confidentially printed and keeping its copies ready for circulation among members as soon as it is presented to the House.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Then later on, the member in charge may make a further motion that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. President : That is one of the motions he can make after the report of a select committee is presented to the House.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Will you kindly explain what "presentation" means ? Suppose I have only one copy of the report, should I read it out to the House ?

Mr. President : The report of a select committee may be presented to the House by placing a copy of the same on the table.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I take it away afterwards ?

Mr. President : No, once a document is placed on the table of the Council it becomes the property of the House and will be taken possession of and dealt with by the office of the Council.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Therefore presentation presupposes more copies than one.

Mr. President : No, only one copy is enough. After it is placed on the table of the House the Secretary of the Council will get it printed and circulated among members.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : If the Council does not sit for three months, the report will have to be locked up in the box of the Secretary and the member in charge cannot have a single copy and cannot do anything.

Mr. President : If the member in charge does not care to keep a copy for his own reference he shall have to go without one.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : May I suggest that we follow the existing practice and leave it to the House to amend the Standing Orders if it is considered to be necessary.

Mr. President : I welcome the suggestion. The Standing Orders 43 and 44 may be amended and the practice legalised.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Kyan : And till then the present practice may be continued, I submit.

Mr. President : The report of the select committee has been presented to the Council and circulated among the honourable members to-day. The point for decision is whether I should suspend the operation of standing order 45, (paragraph 89 of the Business Manual) and allow the motion for the consideration of the Bill to be moved.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : But why should the Standing Orders be amended, Sir? Legally the position taken up by you is correct. If there were nothing beyond the Rules and Standing Orders, perhaps we would have done what you have suggested. I have read the Rules very carefully. The procedure is to appoint a select committee ; that select committee makes a report which is presented to the House and then printed, published and made available for the use of the members. But you have admitted that it is open to the members of this Council to give a different direction than the one which is contained in the rules. Take Article 86 of the Business Manual, for example. It says that "such report shall be made not sooner than two months from the date of the first publication of the Bill in the Gazette." All the same the House can order that the report shall be made before two months. There is such a thing as convention which is as binding on the members as written rules and the House gives its acceptance to a certain practice by following that practice. I submit that when it is admitted that it is open to the members to give a direction for a certain purpose without amending these Standing Orders, in a similar manner it is open to the House to show by practice that it is its wish to proceed with a certain matter ; in a certain manner though that procedure may not be strictly in

conformity with the written rules ; and therefore my submission is that all along we have been following a certain procedure which has got, so far as we are concerned, as great a weight as these written Standing Orders.

Now, Sir, one word with regard to the publication and so on. I would very strongly maintain that the giving of the report or making it available to a member is not a breach of any privilege because all the members of this Council are entitled under the rule to a copy of the report. The report may be given before the actual formal presentation or afterwards. As I have already submitted, the practice has been to give all the members a copy before the formal presentation is made in the Council. Would it be a breach of the privilege if a number of people who are entitled under the rules to get a copy get it in advance? Would that be going against the spirit of the rules? The members are not going to make it available to the newspapers.

Mr. President : But if one of them does make it available.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : Then he is forfeiting the privilege which is given to him by the House. Suppose there is a certain document which is in the possession of, say, the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government. He discusses the contents of the matters contained therein with the Cabinet. The members of the Cabinet know that the secret that is entrusted really to that particular member is entrusted to them all, considering their joint responsibility. Is it a breach of privilege if all the members know the secret ? And supposing one member discloses that secret, does it mean that a breach of privilege has occurred ?

Mr. President : Of course.

Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit : It means that the member concerned who divulges the contents of the document must be taken to task. So far as the privilege is concerned, it is not broken. The honourable members have the right to get into touch with the report of the select committee even before the report is presented to the House. So I submit that this is in no way a breach of the privilege of the House or of the members individually or collectively. In these circumstances, I do not think that there is any necessity for amending the rules. There is the convention which we have been following, and we are entitled to follow that convention. If the House feels that the convention is in any way inconvenient to them or that the House suffers in some way, then that is a different matter. But it is a practice which is quite in consonance with the privileges of the House.

Mr. President : If the House wishes the practice to be legalised it may amend Standing Orders 43 and 44 or expressly recognize the practice to-day and follow it hereafter. May I ask if it is the wish of the House to recognize and follow the practice of circulating the printed copies of the report of a select committee among the members before it is presented to the House. *(Shouts of "no. no" and "yes, yes.)"*

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : No, Sir, we want to discuss the whole question. My friends, two of them, who have now gone over to the Government benches, are for curtailing the liberties of the House. We want to go into the whole question—

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : We do not wish to curtail the liberties of the House.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : My friend has made an attack on the liberties of the House.

Mr. President : I have already stated that the report of a select committee is made within the meaning of paragraph 86 (2) when a copy of it is handed over to the Secretary. So the only point that remains to be decided is whether the Secretary should get the copies of the report printed and circulated among the members of the Council, before it is actually presented to the House in its corporate capacity.

Shaikh Muhamamad Sadiq : I want to say one thing. My learned friend said that if the report had been posted on the 16th it would have reached the members on the 17th and that would have given us time to send in amendments and we would have been able to proceed with the Bill to-day. But the thing is that members act in groups. I have to ask this friend what his opinion is as regards the Bill and I have to ask that friend, and then amendments can be made in Parliamentary groups. How can members consult each other living in different parts of the country ?

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Is it open to the House to establish a convention against the Standing Orders ?

Mr. President : The supporters of the convention contend that it is not against the Standing Orders 43 and 44.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : That is not curtailing the privilege, it is extending the privilege. Sir, the question is whether the honourable members would like that the report of a select committee should remain locked up in the confidential box of the Secretary and that it should be made available to them at the last moment. I do not think that they would like that.

Mr. President : I think I may informally collect the sense of the House on the point.

Pir Akbar Ali : Sir, may I submit that some of the members have not been able to follow the discussion that has been going on ? They are absolutely in the dark as to what has been going on.

Mr. President : I cannot help it.

Pir Akbar Ali : Will you kindly allow me just two minutes and I will explain it to them.

Mr. President : Certainly.

Pir Akbar Ali (*Urdu*) *:* Gentlemen (*A voice : Order, order,* the honourable member should address the chair). Sir, many of the honourable members, I think, have not been able to follow the discussion that has been going on for the last two hours and with your permission I would like to explain to them the points involved in this discussion. Sir, the report of the select committee has not been presented properly and according to the rules on the subject.—

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : That is not the point at issue.

Pir Akbar Ali : Please let me proceed and you will find that in a minute or two I shall be coming to the point at issue. We object to the consideration of the report just now on the ground that we have not been given sufficient time to table amendments———

Mr. President : But that is not the question. I think that the honourable member was quite right when he said that some of the members had not followed the discussion (*laughter*).

[*Mr. President then informally took the sense of the House and found that the majority were in favour of the convention being retained.*]

Mr. President : The sense of the House appears to be that the practice of circulating copies of the report of a select committee among members before its presentation to the House should be continued. Now, the point for decision is whether the motion to take the Bill into consideration at once should be allowed to be moved or some time should be given to the honourable members to study the report and table their amendments. I think the 23rd instant is a suitable date for moving the motion.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : If we give in our amendments on the 21st, will they be in time ?

Mr. President : As regards amendments, I may at once state that if amendments are important, I shall be only too glad to receive them in writing not only on the 21st but even on the 23rd.

Mr. Labh Singh : The motion moved is that the Bill be taken into consideration and it is usual to have a general sort of discussion on that motion. The actual consideration of the Bill comes at a later stage. My submission is whether it would not be convenient and save the time of the House if we have that general discussion now.

Mr. President : I do not think any discussion is feasible unless the members have had time to read the report of the select committee.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Mr. Labh Singh's contention is that the discussion on the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration may go on and dilatory motion. if any, may be disposed of now while the actual consideration of the Bill may be taken up at some later date. I may make it clear that I do not want that any body should suffer or be put to any inconvenience or should have any cause of complaint that he had not sufficient time to go through the Bill. I have no objection to the actual consideration of the Bill being taken up on the 23rd if the honourable members so desire.

Mr. President : As the motion to take the Bill into consideration has been objected to under paragraph 89, it is proposed to put it off to the 23rd instant. Therefore, neither a dilatory motion nor an amendment to it can-be discussed to-day. The honourable members may give notice of amend ments by the 21st instant. May I take it that the House agrees to take up the motion for consideration on the 23rd instant ? (*Voices :* yes). The motion will accordingly be taken up on the 23rd instant.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AND TOKEN GRANTS.

Mr. President : The next item on the agenda relates to Supplementary Grants which I am afraid cannot be taken up to-day. Under paragraph 24 of the Business Manual, the Secretary of the Council has to arrange the Government Business in such order as the Government may intimate, and I regret to say that the Government did not intimate any order to the Secretary before the 17th. To-day is the 19th. Members are entitled to one week's notice, while they have been given only 2 days' notice in this case. Besides, members are expected to give at least two clear days' notice of amendments to a demand for grant. I am unable to see under the circumstances, how the Supplementary Demands can be considered to-day by the Council. I take this opportunity to request the Leader of the House to see that in future, order of Government Business is intimated to the Secretary of the Council at least 10 days before the day on which Demands for Grants are expected to be considered.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It may sometimes be difficult to give ten days' notice, because we have to place the demands before the Standing Finance Committee and it may not be possible for the Finance Committee to meet so many days in advance of the Council session. I shall, however, see that fair notice is given in future. Perhaps it may be possible for me, during a long session such as the budget session to announce from time to time in the House the dates on which Government business is to be transacted.

Mr. President : I fully realise that it may not be possible in every case to intimate the order of business so many days in advance. I hope at the same time the Leader of the House and his colleagues will realize the difficulties of members, who have to study the demands with connected documents and to give at least 2 clear days' notice of amendments they wish to make. So if the Government fails in future to intimate in time the order of Government business to the Secretary, I will have to ask him to arrange it in the order in which it is received.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : As a matter of fact, the practice now is to communicate to the Secretary of the Council a continuous list of Government business. We have a continuous list of Government business which has to be taken up on official days. The business of which we have already given notice in the present instance was so arranged as to give the members a chance to get through this Bill first. We did not anticipate that the demands will come up to-day.

Mr. President : May I ask when the Supplementary Demands for Grants were actually handed over to the Secretary ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The Standing Finance Committee met on the 12th March. That is the reason why Government was not able to intimate the order of Government business earlier.

Mr. President : But the difficulty is this, that the members are required to give at least 2 clear days' notice of an amendment to a grant, and

this rule is so inflexible that I have no power to relax it. Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah and Mr. Maya Das have sent in notices of nominal reductions. Their object apparently is to criticise the policy of Government in certain matters which object, however, they can achieve by opposing the whole demand.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I have sent in notices of Re. 1 cuts as also substantial cuts in the demands. I should like this House to consider those motions on their merits.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : May I make a suggestion? Would it not be possible to proceed with those demands for which no notice of cuts have been given ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : We want to send in notices of cuts to such demands also.

Mr. President : I do not think the Chair has got power to change the order. Do the honourable members think that they can proceed with the Supplementary Demands ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : How can we ?

Mr. President : What does the Honourable Finance Member suggest ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I suggest that we should proceed to discuss the demands for which no notice of cuts has been given.

Mr. President : But as already pointed out this cannot be done.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I understand that the Chair has no power to reduce the period of two days required for notice. Has the member in charge power to accept a notice of a cut in a shorter time ? I am perfectly prepared to do so.

4 P.M.

Mr. President : If there is any rule or Standing Order under which the Honourable Member can accept a shorter notice I shall be only too glad to allow the disucussion to proceed.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I have no objection to discussing it on the 23rd, if the House wants to ; but do they want to discuss it to-morrow ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : No, no.

Mr. President : The date on which notice of amendment was given is 18th, that is yesterday and two clear days would be complete on the 21st and I have no objection to their discussion on that date.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : We received the agenda only this morning.

Mr. President : But I have got before me Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah's amendment, dated the 18th instant.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : We received the motion relating to supplementary demands only to-day.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have here a motion for a cut, dated the 16th from Mr. Maya Das.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : He is a privileged person. He knows of things before they are printed. He might have got them from the office.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : In that case we might take it up to-morrow.

Mr. President : It is a fact that the Supplementary Demands were printed and circulated to honourable members a few days ago, but the day on which they were to be taken up was neither fixed nor intimated to them before the 17th.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Is the House prepared to consider them to-morrow?

Mr. President : I think there is no harm if the House takes up the demands on the 21st (*A voice :* No, that is a Saturday). The House has sat on Saturdays, but I leave it to the honourable members. (*Honourable Members :* Have it on the 23rd). The sense of the House appears to be in favour of 23rd. (*Honourable Members :* To-morrow).

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : My friends seem to have changed their opinions.

Mr. President : But how can the amendments notice of which was given only yesterday be taken up to-morrow ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : When did they get the agenda ?

Mr. President : On or after the 17th instant.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Then have 23rd if you want.

Mr. President : Any day that suits the House will suit me. (*A voice :* Have it to-morrow). But as already stated this cannot be done.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : If we meet to-morrow, cannot this discussion take place at 2-30 ? That will be two clear days' notice from the 18th. I take it all these cuts were presented two clear days before to-morrow.

Mr. President : No, no.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Two clear days mean two clear days and two nights.

Mr. President : To determine the number of clear days both the day on which a notice is received and the day on which the demand is to be discussed must be excluded.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : Then have 23rd.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I wish to state for the information of the House that in that case we will have to alter the order of business. Supplementary Demands will be taken up first, then the Executive Officers Bill, and after that the Kalra Impartible Estate Bill.

Mr. President : That is the order that the Leader of the House proposes in which the Government business will be discussed. I think all mem-members understand it. First will be taken up supplementary demands and then the Executive Officer Bill and then the Kalra Impartible Estate Bill.

Pir Akbar Ali : Will 24th be reserved for the non-official business ?

Mr. President : Yes.

Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : Will 25th be a holiday ?

Mr. President : I cannot say. If Government business is finished on the 23rd there will be no sitting on the 25th.

Mr. Mukand Lal Puri : If Government business is not finished, do you adjourn to 25th or to 26th ?

Mr. President : Unless the Government business regarding which the Honourable the Leader of the House has just made a statement is finished the Council shall continue to sit. 24th is fixed for non-official members' business.

Pir Akbar Ali : Will the elections to various Standing Committees be held on the 23rd instant and, if so, at what time ?

Mr. President : [After sounding the Council informally]. Elections of various committees will be held on the 24th instant at 6 P.M.

The Council adjourned until 2 P.M. on Monday, 23rd March 1931.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 23rd March 1931.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following members were sworn in :—

Barker, Lieutenant-Colonel F. A., O.B.E. (Inspector-General of Prisons).

Ormerod, Mr. C. M. (Under-Secretary, Local Self-Government).

Kirpalani, Mr. S. K. (Junior Secretary to Financial Commissioners).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

*398. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of appointments in class IV (Rs. 80—4—100) of the Subordinate Educational Service ;

(*b*) the number of appointments held by the Muslims ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member is referred to the Annual Consolidated Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been laid on the table.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

*399. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of appointments or promotions made to class III (Rs. 110—5—135) of the Subordinate Educational Service between 1st January 1927, and 1st January 1931 ;

(*b*) the number of appointments given to the Muslims ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) 172.

(*b*) 66.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***400. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of appointments in class III (Rs. 110—5—135) of the Subordinate Educational Service;

(*b*) the number of appointments held by the Muslims?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The honourable member is referred to the Annual Consolidated Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been laid on the table.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***401. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of appointments or promotions made to class II (Rs. 140—10—190) of the Subordinate Educational Service between 1st January 1927 and 1st January 1931;

(*b*) the number of appointments given to the Muslims?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The honourable member is referred to the Annual Consolidated Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been laid on the table.

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***402. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of appointments in the selection grade of the Provincial Educational Service;

(*b*) the number of such appointments held by the Muslims?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Twelve.
(*b*) Four.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***403. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of appointments in class II (Rs. 140—10—190) of the Subordinate Educational Service;

(*b*) the number of appointments held by the Muslims?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) 227.

(*b*) 86.

The honourable member is referred to the Consolidated Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which is being forwarded to him.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***404. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of appointments or promotions made to class I (Rs. 200—10—250) of the Subordinate Educational Service between 1st January 1927 and 1st January 1931 ;

(*b*) the number of such appointments given to the Muslims ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member is referred to the Annual Consolidated Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been laid on the table.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***405. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of appointments in class I (Rs. 200—10—250) of the Subordinate Educational Service ;

(*b*) the number of appointments held by the Muslims ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member is referred to the Annual Consolidated Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been laid on the table.

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***406. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of appointments or promotions made to the Provincial Educational Service between 1st January 1927 and 1st January 1931 ;

(*b*) the number of such appointments given to the Muslims ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Forty.

(*b*) Ten.

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***407. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of appointments in the Provincial Educational Service ;

(*b*) the number of appointments held by the Muslims ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member is referred to the Consolidated Annual Statements showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government copies of which are from time to time placed on the table.

MUSLIM INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***408. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the proportion of Muslims in the total population of each district of the Rawalpindi division ;

(*b*) the period for which a Muslim has held the post of Inspector of Schools in the Rawalpindi division during the ten years 1921—1930 ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) The honourable member is referred to table VI of the Census of India, Volume XV (Punjab and Delhi, part II).

(*b*) Khan Bahadur Khurshed Ahmed officiated as Inspector for a total period of one year and twenty-four days, and Shaikh Allah Rakha for one month and ten days.

LALA BANSI LAL OF CHAKWAL SCHOOL.

***409. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that an untrained Hindu graduate teacher, Lala Bansi Lal of Chakwal School, has been given a permanent appointment ;

(*b*) how many untrained Muslim graduate teachers have similarly been confirmed in their appointment ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes. Lala Bansi Lal, B. Sc. in Agriculture, was appointed as a teacher of Agriculture.

(*b*) None in recent years.

MUSLIM INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***410. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims recommended during the last two years by the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, for promotion to—

(*a*) the Provincial Educational Service ;

(*b*) Rs. 200—10—250 grade ;

(*c*) Rs. 140—10—190 grade ;

(*d*) Rs. 110—5—135 grade ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : It is not in the public interest to give such information as it is confidential.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS AND DEPUTY INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*411. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether there is any division of duties between the Inspector of Schools and Deputy Inspector of Schools in the Rawalpindi division;

(*b*) what duties have been assigned to the Deputy Inspector of Schools?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) There is no hard and fast rule dividing the work between the Inspector and his Deputy.

(*b*) The Deputy assists the Inspector by inspecting schools as it is not possible for the Inspector to inspect all schools in his division in every calendar year. Both the Inspector and the Deputy Inspector of Schools inspect High and Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools which are usually not inspected by the District Inspectors of Schools. The Deputy also assists the Inspector in the office work at the head-quarters.

MUSLIM HEADMASTERS AND HINDU TEACHERS IN THE RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*412. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of cases in the Rawalpindi division in which a Hindu teacher was punished for insubordination or disloyalty to a Muslim headmaster during the last two years?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: One.

LEAVE TO TEACHERS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*413. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of cases in the Rawalpindi division in which the teachers availed of long leave and resumed their duties before such leave was sanctioned by the Inspector of Schools during the last two years?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*414. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of original circular letters written by the present Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, and issued to the District Inspectors or Headmasters of High Schools during the last two years?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*415. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the present Inspector of Schools in the Rawalpindi division examines classes in Science only while holding the inspection of high schools;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) above is in the affirmative, the reasons why the other important subjects are ignored at the time of inspection;

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*416. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, conducted any inquiry into the conduct of a teacher in the Soldiers' Training Class who has alleged to have misappropriated money;

(*b*) what orders have been passed by the head of the department on the report of the Inspector of Schools?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The teacher's explanation was considered unsatisfactory and appropriate disciplinary action was taken against him.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani: May I know what that disciplinary action was?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: I want notice.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, ISAKHEL.

*417. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether there has been a trouble recently in the Government High School, Isakhel, caused by the Hindu students of the school;

(*b*) what action has been taken against the delinquent students by the Inspector of Schools?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: It does not appear that there has been any serious delinquency on the part of Hindu students in the school.

STRIKES AND DISTURBANCES IN SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*418. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of strikes and disturbances in schools which occurred during the last two years in the Rawalpindi division;

(*b*) the cause of the strike or disturbance in each case ;

(*c*) the nature of departmental action taken by the present Inspector of Schools against the delinquents ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Enquiries are being made and a reply will be sent to the honourable member when ready.

TEACHERS IN GUJRAT AND RAWALPINDI DISTRICTS.

***419. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for the districts of Rawalpindi and Gujrat separately the number of new Hindu and Sikh teachers, both English and Vernacular, appointed in Board service during 1929 and 1930 ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

SCHOLARSHIPS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***420. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Rawalpindi division the number of open high school scholarships awarded by the Inspector of Schools in 1929 and 1930 to Hindu, Sikh and Muslim boys separately ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Open high school scholarships are awarded on the results of the Vernacular Final Examination in accordance with article 18 of Chapter V of the Punjab Education Code. A statement of the award made in the Rawalpindi division in 1929 and 1930, is laid on the table.

LIST OF OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED ON THE RESULT OF THE VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATION.

Serial No.	Name of District.	1929.				1930.			
		Hindu.	Sikh.	Muhammadan.	Total.	Hindu.	Sikh.	Muhammadan.	Total.
1	Gujrat	..	..	5	5	2	1	1	4
2	Shahpur	1	1	2	4	3	..	1	4
3	Jhelum	2	1	2	5	1	1	3	5
4	Rawalpindi	1	..	2	3	2	1	1	4
5	Attock	..	..	3	3	..	2	3	5
6	Mianwali	4	..	1	5	4	..	2	6
	Total ..	8	2	15	25	12	5	11	28

HEADMASTER, GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, TALLAGANG.

***421. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether the Headmaster, Government High School, Tallagang rented a house for the Boarding House ;

(*b*) whether the house belonged to a Mussalman ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the old house has been abandoned by the order of the Inspector of Schools and another house belonging to a Hindu has been taken on rent ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Inquiries are being made and a reply will be sent to the honourable member when ready.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani: May I know why it is that most of my questions stand unanswered and who is responsible for this delay ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: It depends on the date when the question is received and on the date by which we can secure replies from the local officers who are really concerned in supplying us with the necessary information. Sometimes it happens that all the information does not come in and we have to send them letters asking for further information in order to be able to supply honourable members with replies which are likely to satisfy them. That is why the delay has occurred.

DISTRICT BOARD, RAWALPINDI.

***422. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether the District Board, Rawalpindi, pays rent for a house in Murree in which the Assistant District Inspector of Schools holds office ;

(*b*) whether the house was occupied by the Inspector of Schools and the District Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi, for some period during last summer ;

(*c*) whether any rent was paid by these officers to the District Board ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Inquiries are being made, and a reply will be sent to the honourable member when ready.

GRANT-IN-AID TO ISLAMIA SCHOOLS, KUNJAH AND GUJRAT.

***423. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state what orders have been passed by the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, on the applications of the Managers of Islamia Schools, Kunjah and Gujrat, for recognition and grant-in-aid ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The Islamia School at Gujrat is recognised in respect to the Middle classes, and that of Kunjah is under consideration. It is not possible to admit any more privately-managed schools to the grant-in-aid list, especially in view of the financial stringency.

SCIENCE BOOKS WRITTEN BY INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*424. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of copies of the science books written by the present Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, which have been purchased at the expense of each District Board in the division during the last two years ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Information is being collected and will be supplied when received.

TEACHERS OR CLERKS IN SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

*425. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Rawalpindi division—

(*a*) the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim teachers or clerks separately who have been confirmed in their appointments in Government service on the recommendation of the present Inspector of Schools ;

(*b*) the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim Anglo-Vernacular Teachers separately who have been confirmed in their appointments in Board Service by the present Inspector of Schools ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) The recommendations of the Inspector are confidential.

(*b*) The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

HEADMASTERS AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

*426. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims separately who have been appointed Headmasters of High Schools or Assistant District Inspectors in the Rawalpindi division on the recommendation of the present Inspector of Schools ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : It is not in the public interest to disclose recommendations of officers which are confidential.

HEADMASTERS, BHALWAL AND BHAGTANWALA.

*427. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Hindu Headmaster of the District Board High School, Bhagtanwala, and the Muslim Headmaster of the District Board High School, Bhalwal, both joined the service of the District Board of Shahpur as Headmasters of High Schools in 1927, and were put on probation ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that both of them were recommended to the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division, for confirmation and grant of three years' increments in 1930 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the results in the Matriculation Vernacular Final and Divisional Anglo-Vernacular Middle Examina-

[Shaikh Abdul Ghani.]

tion shown in 1930, by the Headmaster of Bhalwal were better than those shown by the Headmaster of Bhagtanwala ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Schools confirmed and granted increments to the Hindu Headmaster of Bhagtanwala, but refused to confirm or grant increments to the Muslim Headmaster of Bhalwal ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the District Board made a special recommendation for the confirmation of the Headmaster of Bhalwal which was supported by the Chairman ;

(f) what orders have been passed by the Inspector of Schools on this recommendation ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The information is being collected and a reply will be sent to the honourable member in due course.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : May I know what that 'due course' would mean ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : It depends on when we get the necessary information from the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : So there is no time-limit. I might get it answered a year hence.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : No. We will try our best to get the answer as early as possible.

SCHOOL LOGBOOKS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

***428. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether he is aware of the impression abroad in the schools of the Rawalpindi division that all school logbooks are written and teachers' certificates endorsed by the stenographer Lala Ram Parshad, on behalf of the Inspector of Schools ;

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether this procedure is sanctioned by the head of the department ;

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the negative what steps do Government propose to take to remove this wrong impression in the schools of the division ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (a) Government have received no complaints in this connection.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government will make enquiries and take suitable action.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : The answer makes the position no better for me.

CONTRACT CONTINGENT GRANT OF DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***429. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly lay on the table a copy of the objections made by the

Auditors last year to the expenditure of the Contract Contingent grant of the office of the District Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi ;

(*b*) whether these objections were brought to the notice of the Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi division ;

(*c*) how have the objections been removed ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) It is not in the public interest to lay the audit report on the table, as it should be regarded as confidential.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Action has been taken where necessary.

PURCHASE OF SPORTS MATERIAL BY DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***430. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the amount spent last year by the District Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi, on the purchase of sports material ;

(*b*) whether any tenders were called ; if so, whose was the lowest tender ;

(*c*) whether the purchase was made from the firm whose tender was the lowest ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Rs. 2,486-9-0.

(*b*) Tenders were not invited but price lists of various firms were called for.

(*c*) Orders were placed with the firm whose terms were most favourable.

PURCHASE OF SCIENCE APPARATUS FOR DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

***431. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) what amount was spent in 1930, by the District Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi, for the purchase of science apparatus for district board schools ;

(*b*) whether any tenders were called for the purchase ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the lowest tender was that of a Muslim firm ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the order of the purchase was placed with a Sikh firm ;

(*e*) the reasons why the lowest tender was not accepted ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Information is being collected and a reply will be sent to the honourable member when ready.

INDER SINGH, SENIOR VERNACULAR TEACHER.

***432. Shaikh Abdul Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the District Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi, employed one Indar Singh, Senior Vernacular teacher, in a district board school ;

[Shaikh Abdul Ghani.]

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this teacher had been dismissed before;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that his pay was raised from Rs. 32 to Rs. 40 last year;

(*d*) whether it is not against rules to re-employ a dismissed teacher and to give him advance increments?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

HEADMASTERS OF DISTRICT BOARD A.-V. MIDDLE SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.

***433. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim headmasters of District Board Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools in the Rawalpindi district before the present District Inspector took over charge;

(*b*) the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim headmasters of District Board Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools in the Rawalpindi district at present;

(*c*) the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim Anglo-Vernacular teachers in the Rawalpindi district who have received grade promotion during the last 2 years.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani: May I know from what question of mine to what question the answer is the same?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: I will tell the honourable member, if he wants that.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

***434. Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) what is the total number of public prosecutors in the Punjab;

(*b*) how many of them are permanent and how many are officiating, temporary, additional or special;

(*c*) what is the number of Musalmans among the permanent public prosecutors and what is their number among the officiating, temporary, additional or special ones;

(*d*) whether Government is satisfied that representation of Musalmans in this important branch of public service is adequate?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) 40.

(*b*)	Permanent	30
	Officiating	2
	Temporary additional	8
(*c*)	Permanent	10
	Officiating	1

(*d*) Government's policy is to avoid as far as possible and with due regard to the claims of efficiency, undue preponderance of any one community in the cadre of public prosecutors, and this policy is enforced in making permanent appointments. Appointments to temporary, additional or special posts are made with due consideration to local requirements and it is not always possible to take account of communal considerations, in making such appointments.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

*435. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) total number of appointments of public prosecutors, whether permanent or officiating, temporary, additional or special, made during the two years ending with February 1931, and how many of these so appointed are Hindus, Musalmans and Sikhs;

(*b*) whether these appointments were made from among the accepted candidates whose list is kept in the Legal Remembrancer's office; if any appointments were not so made the reasons for the same;

(*c*) whether in case of appointments made from among the approved candidates, persons appointed were in every case senior to those overlooked?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) 33 consisting of—

Hindus	17
Muslims	9
Sikhs	6
Indian Christian	1

(*b*) Yes, except for two, one of whom was specially selected for an enquiry under Act XXXVII of 1850, and the other was selected to meet local requirements at a time when there was no name on the approved list for that particular district.

(*c*) No, not in all cases. Seniority is not the only criterion.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

*436. **Shaikh Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) what are the various grades of permanent public prosecutors in the Punjab and what is the pay of each grade;

(*b*) what is the number of Musalmans in each of such grades?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik:

(*a*) (1) Rs. 1,200 per mensem.
(2) Rs. 1,050 per mensem.
(3) Rs. 900 per mensem.
(4) Rs. 750 per mensem.
(5) Rs. 650 per mensem.
(6) Rs. 500 per mensem.

(*b*) One in number 2, one in number 3, five in number 4, 3 in number 5 and one in number 6.

SERVICES IN THE PUNJAB.

***437. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Chief Secretary to Government kindly supply information in the following form so far as appointments in the Punjab are concerned :—

Serial No.	Name of Service.	Total number of sanctioned appointments.	Number of Selection Grade appointments.	Time-scale of pay.	Pay of Selection Grade appointments.	Percentage of Selection Grade appointments to the total cadre.
1	Indian Civil Service ..					
2	Indian Police Service ..					
3	Indian Agricultural Service					
4	Indian Educational Service					
5	Indian Forest Service ..					
6	Indian Forest Engineering Service.					
7	Indian Medical Service (Civil).					
8	Indian Service of Engineers					
9	Indian Veterinary Service					
10	Punjab Civil Service (Executive).					
11	Punjab Civil Service (Judicial).					
12	Punjab Police Service ..					
13	Punjab Agricultural Service.					
14	Punjab Educational Service					
15	Punjab Forest Service ..					
16	Punjab Civil Medical Service.					
17	Punjab Public Health Service.					
18	Punjab Engineering Service					
19	Punjab Veterinary Service					
20	Punjab General Service ..					
21	Indian Medical Department					
22	Deputy Collectors (Irrigation).					
23	Tahsildars					

Mr. F. H. Puckle: A statement containing the information required is laid on the table—

STATEMENT.

Serial No.	Name of Service.	Total number of sanctioned. appointments.	Number of selection grade appointments.	Time scale of pay.	Pay of selection grade appointments.	Percentage of selection grade appointments to the total cadre.
1	Indian Civil Service	148	14	See schedule I to the Superior Civil Services Rules (reproduced as part B of Appendix G to the Fundamental Rules (Punjab Financial Handbook No. 2, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Council Library).	Two District and Sessions Judges, Selection Grade. Rs. 3,000 *plus* S. O. P. £.13-6-8.	Nine per cent. of the number of District and Sessions Judges.
2	Indian Police Service ..	(For the combined cadre of Punjab, North-Western Frontier Provinces, Delhi and Baluchistan). 110*	6	Ditto ditto ..	Rs. 1,450	5 per cent.
3	Indian Agricultural Service ..	15	2	One post of D. A. at Rs. 2,000—50—2,250 *plus* £13-6-8 Overseas pay. Fourteen posts on time scale pay- See Schedule I to the Superior Civil Services Rules.	Rs. 1,250—50—1,500 *plus* £30 or Rs. 300 Overseas pay.	14·3 per cent.
4	Indian Educational Service (Men's Branch).	32	5 (1 Higher Selection Grade and 4 Lower Selection Grade).	See Schedue I to the Superior Civil Services Rules.	See Schedule I to the Superior Civil Services Rules.	15·6 per cent.
	Indian Educational Service (Women's Branch).	3	..	Ditto ditto	Ditto.	
5	Indian Forest Service	34	Nil.	Ditto ditto ..	..	
6	Indian Forest Engineering Service ..	2	..	Ditto ditto ..	..	
7	Indian Medical Service	The Punjab Government have not the required information.				

*This number represents the final sanctioned strength after the progress of Indianization is completed. The actual strength at present is 62 Superior posts and 54 Inferior posts.

Serial No.	Name of Service.	Total number of sanctioned appointments.	Number of selection grade appointments.	Time Scale of pay.	Pay of selection grade appointments.	Percentage of selection grade appointments to the total cadre.
8	Indian Service of Engineers (Irrigation Branch).	148	3 Chief Engineers, 15 Superintending Engineers.	See Schedule I to the Superior Civil Services Rules.	Chief Engineers Rs. 2,750—3,000 + S.O.P. £13-6-8. Superintending Engineers Rs. 1,750—2,150 + S. O. P. £13-6-8.	12 16 per cent.
	Indian Service of Engineers (Buildings and Roads Branch).	32	1 Chief Engineer, 3 Superintending Engineers.	Ditto ditto ..	Ditto ..	12·5 per cent.
9	Indian Veterinary Service	5	2	See Schedule I to the Superior Civil Services Rules.	See Schedule I to the Superior Civil Services Rules.	40 per cent.
*10	Punjab Civil Service (Executive Branch)	239	7*	(1) Rs. 300—40—820—30—850 with efficiency bars at Rs. 500 and Rs. 700, for members of the Punjab Civil Service selected as candidates by the Governor in Council before 1st April 1921. (2) Rs. 300—30—600—40—800 —50—850 for members of the service selected as candidates on and after 1st April 1921.	Rs. 900—50—1,200	3 per cent.
11	Punjab Civil Service (Judicial Branch)	170	4*	Ditto ditto ..	Ditto ..	3 per cent.

*Besides posts in the selection grades, members of the Punjab Civil Service are eligible for "listed" posts on the Indian Civil Services cadre of which there are 10 on the Executive and 8 on the Judicial sides.

Serial No.	Name of Service.	Total number of sanctioned appointments.	Number of selection grade appointments.	Time Scale of pay.	Pay of selection grade appointments.	Percentage of selection grade appointments to the total cadre.
12	Punjab Police Service	70	5	Rs. 200—25—500 (efficiency bar)—25—700.	750	7 per cent.
13	Punjab Agricultural Service (Class II)	†30	..	Rs. 200—250—25—550—25—750.	..	..

†These posts are in the process of being filled up.

Serial No.	Name of Service.	Total number of sanctioned appointments.	Number of selection grade appointments.	Time Scale of pay.	Pay of selection grade appointments.	Percentage of selection grade appointments to the total cadre.
14	Punjab Educational Service (Men's Branch).	120	12	Rs. 250—25—500 (efficiency bar) Rs. 25—600.	Rs. 650—30—800	10 per cent.
	Punjab Educational Service (Women's Branch).	10	..	Rs. 200—20—400 (pause for one year and efficiency bar)—25—500.	..	..

15	Punjab Forest Service ..	30	..	Rs. 250—25—550, efficiency bar —Rs. 575—25—750.	..	..
16	Punjab Civil Medical Service ..	Civil Surgeons 9‡, and Civil Assistant Surgeons 149.	2 .. .. §	Rs. 600—40—800—50—900, Rs. 225—15—450.	Rs. 1,000. ..	25 per cent. ..

‡This number will increase to 17 when the number of Military Assistant Surgeons is reduced to the sanctioned level and the requirements of the Government of India Press *Communiqué*, dated the 10th May 1928 are satisfied.

§There is no selection grade of Assistant Surgeons though there are two posts, that of Assistant Chemical Examiner and that of Senior Lecturer, Medical School, Amritsar, which carry the pay of a civil surgeon when the incumbents have compeleted 20 years' total service of which at least 10 have been spent in the Chemical Examiner's Department or the Medical School.

17	Punjab Public Health Service— Assistant Director of Public Health, (non-I.M.S.) Ditto ditto .. District Medical Officer of Health ..	1 3 37	.. .. ..	Rs. 625—1,350. Rs. 600—40—1,200 Rs. 400—20—600—25—750.	.. ..	.. ..
18	Punjab Engineering Service (Irrigation Branch) Punjab Engineering Service (Buildings and Roads Branch).	140 24	.. ..	Rs. 250—20—750. Rs. 250—20—550—20—750.	.. ..	.. ..
19	Punjab Veterinary Service (Class II) ..	22‖	..	Rs. 200—250—25—550—25—750.	..	..

‖These posts are in the process of being filled up.

20	Punjab General Service ..	5	..	3 Assistant Secretaries to the Punjab Government, Rs. 800—40—1,000. 1 Registrar, Irrigation Secretariat, Rs. 700—25 750—30—900. 1 Assistant Secretary to Financial Commissioners, at Rs. 600—40—800	..	..
21	Indian Medical Department ..	See remarks again	st entry No. 7 above.			
22	Deputy Collectors (Irrigation) ..	37	5	Rs. 225—25—450.	500	13·5 per cent.
23	Tahsildars	129	12	Rs. 200—10—270—10—350.	4 at Rs. 400, and 8 at Rs. 375.	9·3 per cent.

LISTED POSTS.

***438. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Chief Secretary to Government kindly state the various services, both All-India and Provincial, in which listed posts are sanctioned and also state—

(*i*) the number of listed posts in each service ;

(*ii*) the percentage of listed posts to the total number of posts in each service ;

(*iii*) the scale of pay of listed posts in each service ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (*i*) and (*ii*) The only services with listed posts are the following :—

	No.	*Percentage.*
Indian Civil Service ..	18	20 per cent. of the number of superior posts.
Indian Police Service ..	8	16 per cent. of the number of posts on the senior time-scale.
Indian Forest Service ..		The proportion of listed posts was up till recently 12½ per cent. of the cadre, but it has lately been raised by the Government of India to 25 per cent. This increase is, however, to be effected gradually. The present strength of the Indian Forest Service in the Punjab is 34 posts.

(*iii*) The rules regarding the pay of listed posts on the Indian Civil Service cadre are contained in Appendix J to the Fundamental Rules, a copy of which is in the Council Library. The scale of pay of holders of listed posts in the Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service is the same as for direct recruits to those services.

INFERIOR LISTED POSTS.

***439. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** With reference to the reply given to unstarred question[1] No. 503 in the November 1927 session of the Council, will the Chief Secretary to Government kindly state—

(*i*) the total number of inferior listed posts against the cadre of each All-India Service in the province and their distribution in the province ;

(*ii*) whether the holders of such posts are eligible for superior listed posts and whether their claims are duly considered at the time of filling up vacancies in the cadre of superior listed posts ?

[1]Vol. X-B, page 1408.

Mr. F. H. Puckle. (*i*) There are now no inferior listed posts in the Indian Civil Service cadre of this province, as explained in the reply given to question No. 1451 asked by the honourable member in December 1929. Similarly, there are no such posts in any of the other All-India or Provincial Services in the Punjab.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

***440. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Chief Secretary to Government please state the precise nature of the Special Duty with the Round Table Conference in connection with which Mr. A. Latifi, I.C.S., Commissioner, and Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz, P.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, were deputed to England as also the emoluments paid to them during the period of their deputation ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : Messrs. Latifi and Abdul Aziz were employed at the Round Table Conference under the orders of the Government of India and the Punjab Government have no official knowledge of their duties at the Conference. Their emoluments while on such duty were not fixed by or debitable to the Punjab Government.

DR. R. C. RAWLLEY, LATE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES.

***441. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the circumstances in which the contract of Dr. R. C. Rawlley, until lately Director of Industries and Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, has not been renewed ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Government is not prepared to give the reasons for not renewing contracts of service with its officers.

MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.

***442. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether Government intends to carry the transmission line for all the areas proposed under the first stage of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The reply is in the affirmative.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION UNDER HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.

***443. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether Government intends to hand over to private companies the local distribution of the current under the Hydro-Electric Scheme, or whether it intends to do this itself ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : No decision has yet been reached.

MARTIAL LAW PRISONERS.

***444. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Martial Law prisoners in the Punjab ;

(*b*) when their term will expire ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) 21, of whom 13 are confined in Punjab Jails, and 8 in the Andamans.

(*b*) I am not at present in a position to make any statement on this subject.

RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

***445. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government intends to consider the question of the release of prisoners convicted in the course of the civil disobedience movement in the province for offences not involving violence ;

(*b*) if so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) and (*b*) Government have carried out the release of civil disobedience prisoners in accordance with the directions embodied in paragraph 13 of Government of India, Home Department, Notification No. S-481-Poll., dated the 5th of March, 1931, a copy of which is laid on the table for the information of the honourable member.

Extract from the Government of India, Home Department, Notification No. S.-481-Poll., dated 5th March 1931.

* * * * * * * * * *

13. (*i*) Those prisoners will be released who are undergoing imprisonment in connection with the civil disobedience movement for offences which did not involve violence, other than technical violence, or incitement to such violence.

(*ii*) If any prisoner who comes within the scope of (*i*) above has been also sentenced for a jail offence, not involving violence, other than technical violence or incitement to such violence, the latter sentence also will be remitted, or if a prosecution relating to an offence of this character is pending against such a prisoner, it will be withdrawn.

(*iii*) Soldiers and police convicted of offences involving disobedience of orders in the very few cases that have occurred will not come within the scope of the amnesty.

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HOSPITAL BUILDING AT RUPAR.

***446. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Committee, Rupar, refused to pay the sum of Rs. 22,000 spent by the Government on hospital building at Rupar ;

(*b*) if the reply is in the affirmative, whether the Honourable Minister will be pleased to lay on the table the detailed report and resolution or resolutions of the Municipal Committee, Rupar, if any, on the subject up to the present day and decision of the Government in the light of the different resolutions passed by the Municipal Committee, Rupar ;

(c) the details of the expenditure spent by the Government on the hospital building at Rupar?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (a) The Municipal Committee, Rupar, has agreed to pay for the cost of maintenance of the hospital, but has impliedly refused to pay for the cost of construction. The matter is still the subject of correspondence.

(b) A copy of Committee's Resolution No. 83, dated the 2nd October 1930, is placed on the table. The decision of Government passed after receipt of this resolution is that Government are willing to hand back the hospital to the Committee on the Committee's reimbursing to Government the amounts spent by Government on building and equipping the hospital and also the amounts spent on maintenance of the hospital.

(c) The expenditure incurred on construction amounts to Rs. 23,635 and on maintenance up to the 30th September 1930, Rs. 6,895-14-3. An additional sum of Rs. 6,000 is necessary for the completion of the female section, which is partially built and will deteriorate if left in an incomplete state.

Copy of resolution No. 83 *passed by the Rupar Municipality in its ordinary general meeting held on 2nd October* 1930.

Proposals :—Letter No. 5757-S.-Medl., dated 3rd September 1930 from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments, Simla, to the Commissioner, Ambala Division, with Deputy Commissioner's endorsement No. 5352-M., dated 24th September 1930 regarding provincialisation of Tahsil Head Quarters Hospital at Rupar in the Ambala District.

Resolution.—Passed by majority of votes that in reply to letter No. 5757-S.-Medl., dated 3rd September 1930 from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments, Simla, to the Commissioner, Ambala, the Local Government may be requested as follows :—

(a) This committee thanks the Government for its decision for declaring the Committee's resolution No. 2, dated 4th September 1927 as illegal.

(b) This Committee most respectfully states that the Government Officers have interfered in this matter illegally. They have dismantelled the municipal buildings without its permission and have taken away the material. They have also taken over the possession of the hospital building including the medicines, instruments and furniture without any registered deed and without the Committee's permission, also took under their control the municipal servants without its permission. This act is such on which this Committee, which has got some powers under Punjab Municipal Act, much regrets that the Medical Department did not care a bit of it, and requests the Government to institute an impartial enquiry.

(c) The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, addressed the Committee,—*vide* his letter No. 1040, dated 22nd May 1930, to make over the possession of the hospital building, and the Committee at once refused to hand over and transfer the hospital,—*vide* its latter No. 59, dated 29th May 1930. Prior to this the construction of any building by the Public Works Department by dismantelling the municipal buildings, is illegal and the Medical and Public Works Departments are responsible for it.

(d) The Committee is willing to pay the expenses incurred by Government for the maintenance of the hospital from the 1st October 1929 after deducting the grant-in-aid by the District Board, Ambala, within its budget provisions.

(e) This matter is entrusted to the Sub-Committee consisting of the President, Lala Shadi Ram, and Pandit Ganga Ram, Sharma, with the request that they may protect the rights of the Committee after consulting Lala Ram Pershad, Advocate, or any other competent pleader, if necessary, and put up the papers before the general special meeting on receipt of the estimate of the expenditure incurred by Government. The quorum will be of these three persons. Copy of this resolution be submitted to Local Government. The Chairman does not agree with this proposal and is of opinion that no action should be taken until the estimate of expenditure incurred by Government is received, and this matter should be considered in the next general meeting on receipt of this information. This proposal of the Chairman was rejected by majority of votes.

LICENSING OF MOTOR CARS AND MOTOR LORRIES.

***447. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules for the licensing of motor cars and motor lorries plied on hire ;

(*b*) whether the number of persons which such a motor car or lorry is to carry is fixed ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that some of the district boards in order to get increased revenue from the license of lorries, have allowed a larger number of passengers to be carried than under the rules they should be ;

(*d*) if so, what action Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No. Seating accommodation is fixed by the District Magistrate at the time of granting a road certificate.

(*d*) Does not arise.

RAJA FAZAL MUHAMMAD.

***448. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Raja Fazal Muhammad has been given selection grade (provisional), superseding about twenty officers above him in the Punjab Education Department ;

(*b*) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for doing so ;

(*c*) whether Government has issued any circular containing certain principles which are to be observed in regulating promotion in selection grade of Provincial Educational Service ;

(*d*) if so, whether the Government will lay a copy of it on the table ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member is referred to the answer given to Starred Council question[1] No. 324 on the 19th March, 1931.

AUDIT OF PURCHASE ACCOUNTS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, RUPAR.

***449. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Municipal Committee, Rupar, passed a resolution to get audited the accounts of the purchases made for Municipal Committee, Rupar, from the firm of Ahsan Ilahi and other relatives of Shaikh Rahmat Ilahi, in time of the Senior Vice-Presidentship of Shaikh Rahmat Ilahi ;

[1]Page 548 *ante*.

(*b*) if the reply is in the affirmative, whether the Honourable Minister will be pleased to lay on the table copies of the report or reports submitted by the auditor from time to time up to the present day, and the copy of resolution or resolutions and note of Mr. Mey, Sub-Divisional Officer, and other officers up to the present day ;

(*c*) what action or actions Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : As the answer involves copying out of a large number of documents, the answer is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, RUPAR.

***450. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that all Hindu Municipal Commissioners of Rupar in April, 1930, submitted representation through President, Municipal Committee, Rupar, to His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab, regarding the unlawful interference of the executive officers in the working of Municipal Committee, Rupar;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Mey, Sub-Divisional Officer, Rupar, went through the allegations and submitted his report to the higher authorities ?

(*ii*) If the reply to the above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table the copy of the above representation and orders or notes by the different officers from time to time, with the orders of the Government up to the present day ?

(*iii*) Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to clear the points of differences for the guidance of the municipal committee and the executive officers ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*i*) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*ii*) It would be too lengthy and costly a matter to have copies made of all the documents mentioned. It will suffice to say that the Sub-Divisional Officer after a very careful and detailed enquiry reported that there appeared to be no grounds for the complaint of the members and that the Deputy Commissioner informed the Commissioner that he agreed with the Sub-Divisional Officer. There have been no orders of the Local Government on the question, as the matter has not yet been referred to them by the Commissioner.

(*iii*) Government will pass suitable orders if any such case is referred to them through the proper channels.

SCHOOLS AT RUPAR.

***451. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there are three Anglo-Vernacular Schools at Rupar, besides the Government School ;

(*b*) if so, what is the justification for maintaining a Government School at the place ;

(*c*) how much net expenditure (after deducting the income from fees, etc.) is Government incurring every year on account of the school ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) An undenominational high school at the place is needed. The question whether there is need for all the commmunal schools that are aided by Government will be looked into.

(*c*) The expenditure on the school varies from year to year, but net expenditure during the last financial year 1929-30 amounted to about Rs. 14,000.

TRAINING SCHOOL OF FEMALE TEACHERS AT MULTAN.

***452. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the training school of the female teachers at Multan was amalgamated with the Training School at Lyallpur in summer last ; if so, why ;

(*b*) whether as a result about 70 students of the Multan School were sent to Lyallpur ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that many of them were mothers of infants ;

(*d*) whether the Government is also aware that most of them belonged to the districts of Multan, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan and Mianwali ;

(*e*) whether those students were at all consulted as to whether they would like to go away from their homes or whether this transfer was forced upon them ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes, because a certain portion of the buildings at Multan was declared to be unsafe for residential occupation.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes, but in such cases the mothers take their infants with them.

(*d*) Very few of the teachers under training come from Multan City.

(*e*) It is the duty of Government to protect the safety of those in its charge.

GIRLS TRAINING SCHOOL, MULTAN.

***453. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that during the last Xmas holidays all the students of the training school of the Girls' Training School, Multan, were forced to go to their respective homes against their wishes ;

(*b*) whether some of them belonged to villages, a majority of them were also poor and could hardly afford to undertake this unnecessary travelling ;

(*c*) whether the Government is also aware that many of them could stay at their home only for three days after spending 6 days in travelling to and fro ;

(*d*) if so, whether Government intend to issue any instructions forbidding such compulsion in future ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) No. None of the students asked to remain. They could have stayed, had they so desired.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

INSPECTRESSES OF GILS SCHOOLS.

***454. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Inspectresses of Girls Schools are under the same rules of transfer as the Inspector of Schools of a Division ;

(*b*) whether after a certain number of years an Inspector of Schools is liable to be transferred ; and, if so, what is that period ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Western Circle, has held continuous charge of the circle for over 6 years ;

(*d*) if so, when Government intends to consider her transfer to some other circle ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) There are no rules. Both Circle Inspectresses and Divisional Inspectors may be transferred at the discretion of Government.

(*b*) An Inspector may be transferred at any time.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Government does not at present consider a transfer necessary.

SUBORDINATES SERVING IN THE 1ST BRITISH CIRCLE, FEROZEPORE.

***455. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly lay on the table a statement showing the following :—

(*a*) the number of subordinates communitywise serving in the 1st British Circle, Ferozepore, on the 31st October, 1930 ;

(*b*) the names of subordinates and signallers served on 2nd November 1930 or before in the same year with notices of discharge ; with their qualifications, remark in their personal files and period of service rendered by each such person at the time of the service of notice ;

(*c*) the names of the subordinates served on the 23rd December 1930, with notices of discharge, with their qualifications, remarks in their personal files and period of service rendered by each such person ;

(*d*) the names of the subordinates served on the 26th January 1931, with notice of discharge with their qualifications, remarks in their personal files and the period of service rendered by each such person ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*). Statements placed on the table. The records of subordinates are maintained in personal registers which are confidential.

STATEMENT A.

The number of subordinates communitywise serving in the Ferozepore Canals Circle on 31st October 1930 were :—

Hindus	34
Sikhs	11
Muslims	17
Total ..	62

STATEMENT B.

LIST OF SUBORDINATES SERVED WITH NOTICES ON 16TH JUNE 1930.

Serial No.	Name.	Qualifications.	Date of continuous appointment to department.	Period of service up to the date of relief.		
				Y.	M.	D.
1	Ralya Ram ..	Hewett Engineering School, Lucknow.	1st April 1929	1	3	15
2	Siraj Din ..	Ditto	17th October 1924.	5	9	1
3	Daljit Singh ..	Non-Matric Passed Ludhiana School of Engineering.	14th July 1925	5	5	14
4	Ganga Ram ..	Upper Subordinate of Roorkee	20th January 1925.	5	6	11

STATEMENT C.

NAMES OF SUBORDINATES SERVED NOTICES ON 21ST DECEMBER 1930.

Serial No.	Names.	Qualifications.	Date of continuous appointment to department.	Period of service.		
1	B. Rajindar Singh	Matric qualified F.S.C. Overseer, Rasul.	27th April 1928.	Got employment in Sirhind Canal Circle.		
2	B. Dev Raj ..	School Leaving Certificate, Rasul.	3rd March 1928.			
3	B. Mulkh Raj ..	Matric, Rasul ..	6th September 1927.	Since retained.		
4	B. Benarsi Dass..	Ditto ..	1st August 1927.			
5	B. Tej Ram Malik	Ditto	18th February 1927.			
				Y.	M.	D.
6	B. Daljit Singh ..	Non-Matric, Ludhiana ..	14th July 1925	5	5	14
7	B. Behari Lall ..	Matric, 1st Examination of Civil Engineering of Punjab University.	19th August 1918.	12	3	29
8	B. Milkhi Ram ..	Matric, Rasul ..	22nd November 1922.	Since retained.		

[Hon. Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

STATEMENT D.

LIST OF SUBORDINATES SERVED WITH NOTICES ON 27TH JANUARY 1931—FINAL.

Serial No.	Names.	Qualifications.	Date of 1st appointment continuous in the Department.	Total service.
1	Rajindar Singh ..	Matric, qualified. F.S.C. Overseer of Rasul.	27th April 1928.	Got employment in Sirhind Canal Circle.
				Y. M. D.
2	Inayat Shah ..	Matric in 1898. Passed 1st Examination of Civil Engineering of Punjab University.	23rd October 1922.	8 3 19
3	Abdul Aziz ..	Practical ..	6th February 1922.	8 10 23
4	Bashir Ahmed ..	Matric and Rasul Passed. Sub-Overseer Class.	1st August 1927.	3 6 4
5	Harish Chander ..	Matric, Practical ..	6th June 1925	5 8 6
6	Dev Raj ..	School Leaving Certificate, Rasul.	3rd March 1928.	Got employment in Sirhind Canal Circle.
				Y. M. D.
7	Behari Lal ..	Matric, 1st Examination of Civil Engineering of Punjab University.	19th August 1918.	12 3 29
8	Daljit Singh ..	Ludhiana School. Non-Matric.	14th July 1925	5 5 14

MUSLIM SUBORDINATES IN 1ST BRITISH CIRCLE, FEROZEPORE.

***456. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer issued a circular letter for safeguarding at the time of reduction the numeral strength of the Muslim subordinates ;

(*b*) if so, whether it has been followed in the 1st British Circle, Ferozepore, at the time of discharging some subordinates on the 23rd December 1930 and 26th January 1931.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. The Superintending Engineer's orders of 27th January 1931 were in part supersession of those dated 21st December 1930.

***457.** *Cancelled.*

SUBORDINATES BROUGHT UNDER REDUCTION IN 1ST BRITISH CIRCLE, FEROZEPORE.

***458. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state how many subordinates brought under reduction in the 1st British Circle, Ferozepore, have been provided in the other circles ; and if so, what are their names ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Two, *viz.*, Rajindar Singh and Dev Raj.

SUPERANNUATED SUBORDINATES IN 1ST BRITISH CIRCLE, FEROZEPORE.

***459. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state if a medical test of the subordinates brought under reduction in the 1st British Circle, Ferozepore, owing to old age was ever held ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : No subordinates have been brought under reduction in Ferozepore (late 1st British) Circle owing to old age.

REDUCTION OF SUBORDINATES IN THE 1ST BRITISH CIRCLE, FEROZEPORE.

***460. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether at the time of the decision of the question of reduction of subordinates in the 1st British Circle, Ferozepore, any meeting of a committee of officers was held on each of the said three occasions ;

(*b*) if the answer be in the affirmative, whether he will kindly state the names of officers attending such committees ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 1*st Meeting*—

Rai Bahadur Ram Rakha	Executive Engineers.
Mr. W. P. Thompson	
Mr. G. H. Dundon..	
Lala Hakim Rai	

2*nd Meeting*—

Mr. W. P. Thompson	Executive Engineers.
Mr. G. H. Dundon	
Lala Bhim Sen Wadhera	
Lala Hakim Rai	

[Hon. Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

3rd Meeting—

Mr. T. B. Tate	Superintending Engineer.
Mr. W. P. Thompson	Executive Engineers.
Mr. G. H. Dundon..	
Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Rakha ..	
Lala Bhim Sen, Wadhera	

HEAD CLERK OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 1ST BRITISH CIRCLE, FEROZPORE.

***461. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the period for which the present head clerk of the Superintending Engineer, 1st British Circle, Ferozepore, has been serving as such in the said circle ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Three and-a-half years.

SIRHIND CANAL, ABOHAR BRANCH.

***462. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(1) the number of days in each month of the rotation turn of the—

(*a*) Sirhind Canal, Abohar Branch, running in the Ferozepore district ;

(*b*) if the full rotation turn allotted to the said canal for the months of December 1930, January 1931 and February 1931 was allowed to the said canal ;

(*c*) if the answer be in the negative, the reasonsfor not doing so ;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware that for the last four years or so the full rotation turn is not allowed to the said canal in the months of January and February on one pretence or other, and is given to the branch running in the Patiala State ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that January and February are the months when water is urgently required for the *rabi* crops ;

(*f*) if the answer to the above (*d*) and (*e*) be in the affirmative, what steps have so far been taken to redress the grievance of the land-holders on the said canal ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Ten days in 30 days.

(*b*) December 1930.—Yes.

January 1931.—No.

February 1931.—Yes.

(c) In January 1931, the canal was closed for repairs to the weir and other masonry works.

(d) No ; full rotation turns were allowed.

(e) Yes.

(f) Does not arise.

MR. SANYAL, ASSISTANT, MAYO SCHOOL OF ARTS.

***463. Chaudhri Shah Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Sanyal, a resident of Bengal, was appointed Assistant to the Principal, Mayo School of Arts, Lahore, in 1930, in the grade of Rs. 250—25—750 ;

(b) the reasons for which the post was not advertised and thrown open to other suitable candidates belonging to our own province ;

(c) the qualifications on the strength of which Mr. Sanyal was appointed to this post ;

(d) whether the Government is aware that Mr. Sanyal is still getting training in different crafts in the school, under arrangements made for him by Mr. Gupta ; and has not, so far, been assigned independent charge of any class other than that of clay modelling class ;

(e) the number of students in the clay modelling class when Mr. Sanyal took it up and the number of students in that class on 1st February 1931 ;

(f) whether the Government is aware that the number of students in the clay modelling class, during Mr. Sanyal's time has gradually been decreasing, so much so, that it has come down to two ;

(g) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (a) Mr. Sanyal was appointed temporarily on a fixed salary of Rs. 300 per mensem in November 1929.

(b) It was not considered expedient to do so but the claims of all possible Punjabee candidates were considered by Government.

(c) On the strength of his good qualifications as a Modeller, Painter and Draftsman.

(d) There is no truth in either allegation.

(e) and (f) Number of students in Clay Modelling—

in November 1929	..	..	..	195
on the 1st February 1931	..	..	..	224

(ii) Number of special students who took Modelling only

on 26th November 1929	..	..	9
Number of special students who took Modelling only on 1st February 1931	..	..	3

(g) Does not arise.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

***464. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether in the summer session of 1928 the reply to a Council question had elicited the fact that the number of Muslim employees in the Financial Commissioners' Office is less than what would be a fair proportion communitywise :

(*b*) if so, what steps, if any, have been taken to make up the deficiency ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Part (*a*) of the question is not clear. No such Council question seems to have been put in 1928. The representation of the various communities in the Financial Commissioners' Office is at present as follows :—

Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	Muslims.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Others (Christians).
9·8	39·0	36·6	13·4	1·2

(*b*) Does not arise.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES, FOREST DEPARTMENT.

***465. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state the number of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in the Subordinate, Provincial and Imperial Services of the Forest Department ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The number is as follows :—

	Muslims.	*Hindus.*	*Sikhs.*
Subordinate Service	521	675	67
Provincial Forest Service ..	6	16	8
Indian Forest Service ..	5	7	3

ASSISTANT SECRETARY, PUNJAB IRRIGATION.

***466. Malak Muhammad Din :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Secretary, Punjab Irrigation, was due to retire in January 1931 ;

(*b*) whether he has been granted extension ;

(*c*) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, whether the extension granted was in the interests of public service or it was only partly so and partly to enable the Assistant Secretary, Punjab Irrigation, to retire on a higher rate of pension ;

(*d*) whether it is the intention of the Government to grant him further extension or extensions together with reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The extension was given under F. R. 56 (*a*).

(*d*) This has not been considered yet.

Malak Muhammad Din : The Honourable Member for Revenue has not answered part (*c*) of my question. I did not want to know the rules under which the extension was granted but I wanted to know whether the extension granted to the Assistant Secretary was in the public interests or in order to enable the Assistant Secretary to draw a higher rate of pension.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : If it is not in the public interest, extension is not ordinarily sanctioned.

MR. E. O. SHARLING, LATE REGISTRAR, PUNJAB IRRIGATION SECRETARIAT.

***467. Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when Mr. E. O. Sharling, late Registrar, Punjab Irrigation Secretariat, was first employed by the Government and when he retired from service ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that he is being retired on pension at the comparatively early age of about 45 years ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Dr. Diwan Jai Chand, D.P.H., D.T.M., L.M., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P. and S., late Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab, applied to the Government to withhold the grant of permission to retire on pension, as Mr. Sharling was heavily indebted to the said Dr. Jai Chand ;

(*d*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the representation made by the said Dr. Jai Chand, and the action taken on it ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that besides owing over Rs. 19,000 to Dr. Diwan Jai Chand, Mr. Sharling was in debt to various other gentlemen, who also made representations to the Government regarding Mr. Sharling's indebtedness and sent attachment warrants against Mr. Sharling to the Government ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Mr. Sharling's service began on 1st November 1904 and ended on the 10th October 1930.

(*b*) Mr. Sharling was not compulsorily retired. He was permitted to retire, at his own request, as he had completed 25 years' qualifying service.

(*c*) Yes, after the permission had been given.

(*d*) Copies are laid on the table.

[Hon. Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

(e) Government is not aware that Mr. Sharling owes any sums to the gentlemen named or any other gentlemen; only two attachment orders for Rs. 103-8-0 and Rs. 28-8-0 respectively, were received, the first in August 1930 and the second in November 1930 and were complied with in full.

[*Copy of petition of Dr. Jai Chand, late Additional Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab, to the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works, Punjab, dated 4th December* 1930.]

I respectfully submit for your kind and favourable consideration the following facts relating to Mr. E. O. Sharling, late Registrar, Punjab Irrigation Secretariat, and humbly pray that his application for pension may not be sanctioned and it is *malafide* the intended to defraud me of my legitimately-and-morally-acquired interests in his continuance in office till the normal age of retirement from Government service. I am prepared, if granted an opportunity, to substantiate my statement in every single detail.

In 1928 it was represented to me that debts incurred by Mr. Sharling in connection with the medical treatment for 18 long years of illness of his wife, stood in the way of his promotion to the high post of Assistant Secretary. Being his medical advisor since 1925 and holding him in respect for his devotion to an ailing wife (whom, I may incidentally mention, I was instrumental in curing of the intractable illness which had hitherto baffled all attempts at relief or cure), I befriended him and paid up all his debts which amounted to Rs. 19,250 on the condition that he got his life insured for a similar amount, and paid the premium for such insurance and a modest interest every month. By this action of mine, I extricated him from the clutches of professional money-lenders who had made him sign pronotes for double the amount they had actually lent him, and who were crushing him by charging 48 per cent. interest on the loans advanced to him. I can prove, if called upon to do so, to your entire satisfaction that in this matter I was actuated by a sincere desire to serve a fellow-being in the hour of his need and not by any sordid motives of selfish interest. I confess, however, that it was my faith not only in his personal sense of honour but also in the traditional integrity of character and honesty of motives inherent in the great Anglo-Indian community and in the highly-placed officers in Government service, which was responsible for my taking the risk, even at some personal sacrifice. His retirement on pension at this stage deprives me not only of the money I advanced to him but throws on me the additional burden of keeping his Insurance policy with the Prudential Assurance Company in force by paying Rs. 153 per mensem for a further term of over thirteen years.

Mr. Sharling is in sound health and only 45 years of age and would not have normally applied for pension but for the fact that he had been ill-advised and misled into the belief that his salvation from financial obligations could be achieved in this manner alone. This delusion, coupled with disappointment because of his failure to get the desired promotion, appears to have bereft him of all sense of responsibility and honour: and in despair and desparation, he fled stealthily from the scene of action and duties to find solace in far-off lands where he imagined he would live in peace on the fruits of his ill gotten money and undeserved pension which he hoped to obtain. He built a bungalow in the early part of this year; this he sold quietly and quickly prior to his departure for England, without my knowledge, for over Rs. 28,000. He paid what he had borrowed from the Government as building grant: the balance (over Rs. 20,000) he has taken away with himself. This money, I feel sure, he has alienated to his wife by this time.

I submit that your refusal to grant his application for pension under the circumstances disclosed by me would have sobering influence and salutary effect upon him and induce him to return to official duties or to meet his obligations in honourable manner. If this course of action does not meet with your approval, I humbly pray that I may be granted relief and redress by his being ordered to get his pension commuted and his *bona fide* liabilities to the Insurance Company and to me met from the proceeds of such commutation or in any other manner you consider fit and proper.

Respectfully soliciting the favour of your kind consideration of this appeal of mine in the nterests of the fair name of the Public Service.

[*Copy of Letter No.* 11176-*E. I., dated* 19*th December* 1930, *from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to Dr. Jai Chand,* 30,-*Nisbet Road, Lahore.*]

In reply to your letter, dated the 4th December 1930, I am directed to say that Government is not in a position to take such action as he has proposed.

MR. SHARLING, REGISTRAR, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

***468. Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Sharling, late Registrar, Public Works Department, was given a house building loan by the Government, even after the Government had knowledge of Mr. Sharling being heavily in debt, and that he actually built a house, which was mortgaged with the Government ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that before Mr. Sharling had paid off the said loan to the Government, he actually sold the house, and out of the proceeds he only paid partially to the Government and that part of the interest still remains to be paid ;

(*c*) who is now responsible for the payment of this balance ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Mr. Sharling was, in 1929, given advance to build a house in Lahore, under Civil Account Code, paragraph 155. There was no information to show whether he was or was not heavily in debt.

(*b*) Mr. Sharling has paid the advance in full and interest thereon due to Government : It is not known to Government whether he has sold the house or not.

(*c*) Does not arise.

MR. SHARLING, REGISTRAR, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

***469. Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Dr. Diwan Jai Chand filed a suit against Mr. Sharling, late Registrar, Public Works Department, and an injunction was issued by the court against the payment of a cheque drawn in favour of Mr. Sharling by the Government, and that in defiance of this injunction by the court the Government appropriated the amount towards its own loan, and cancelled the cheque ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that on account of his heavy indebtedness Mr. Sharling was not promoted to the post of Assistant Secretary two years ago and was superseded by his junior, and that inspite of attachment orders and representations Mr. Sharling is being allowed to retire on pension and defeat his creditors ;

(*c*) when and whence Mr. Sharling put in his application for leave, retirement and pension, and the dates when orders on these various applications were passed ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the orders regarding the sanction of leave, retirement and grant of pension followed each other in quick succession ; if so, why ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) A prohibitory order was received by the Accountant-General, Punjab, with Sub-Judge's letter No. 467, dated 26th November 1930. By that time there was no money due to Mr. Sharling except his pay for the period 1st to 10th October which being less than a full month's pay is not attachable under the rules. His pay for this period remains undisbursed.

(*b*) Mr. Sharling was, partly on account of his indebtedness, not considered fit for the post of Assistant Secretary which is filled by selection. There are no attachment orders outstanding—

(*c*)	Date of application.	Date of order.
Application for leave	2nd September 1930 from Lahore.	22nd September 1930.
Application for retirement ..	11th September 1930 from Lahore.	28th November 1930.
Application for pension	Ditto	Not yet sanctioned.

(*d*) No.

NUMBERDAR BALOCH GRANTEES.

***470. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that the Numberdar Baloch grantees known as Chaudhries were given 1½ square each after the last settlement by Mr. Penny in the district of Lyallpur ;

(*b*) whether the Chaudhries were to pay up the price of land by instalments and in case of arrears they were to pay both *malkana* and interest ;

(*c*) whether the Government is also aware that under the present conditions of depression it will be a serious hardship on them to pay both *malkana* and interest ;

(*d*) if so, what action Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This is not correct. No payment is demanded for the lumbardari square. The extra half square is purchaseable at Rs. 12-8-0 per acre. The conditions mentioned by the honourable member apply only to any area in addition to the one-and-a-half squares mentioned in (*a*).

(*c*) No. There is no interest charged on balances which are not overdue.

(*d*) None.

Economic conditions of Khikha, District Lyallpur.

*471. **Mian Nurullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the years 1928-29 an inquiry was held into the economic conditions of Khikha in the district of Lyallpur;

(b) what was the result of that inquiry, if any?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (a) No regular inquiry was held, but certain grievances of the zamindars brought to the notice of the authorities were inquired into.

(b) Canal officers were asked to watch carefully the irrigation arrangements with a view to improve them where necessary.

Land revenue rates in Khikha, Lyallpur District.

*472. **Mian Nurullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the land revenue rates in Khikha are the lowest in the Lyallpur district;

(b) if so, why?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Receipts from opium.

61. **Mr. E. Maya Das:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the provincial receipts from opium in 1900-01, 1910-11, 1920-21, 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1929-30?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: The total receipts from opium to the province were—

Year.	*Receipts from opium* Rs.
1900-01	6,09,157
1910-11	10,68,939
1920-21	36,28,011
1925-26	35,37,512
1926-27	37,40,094
1927-28	38,72,256
1928-29	42,57,149
1929-30	40,72,676

I may mention for the information of the honourable member, that while in 1900-01 the total opium sold was 57,301 seers in weight, the total sales now range round 39,000 seers, the increase in revenue is due to increase in duty, which has risen from Rs. 6-8-0 per seer in 1900-01 to Rs. 47-9-0 in 1929-30.

TEMPERANCE EDUCATION TO SCHOOL CHILDREN.

62. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state whether school children as a part of the hygiene curriculum prescribed in the schools are given any instructions about the evil effects of the opium and drink habits?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : In the Middle and High departments such instruction is given; in the primary classes useful in formation is given through vernacular readers.

CURE OF OPIUM ADDICTS.

63. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state what provision is made for the treatment and cure of the opium addicts in Government hospitals and dispensaries who desire to break off the habit?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : No special provision is made in Government hospitals and dispensaries for the treatment and cure of opium addicts; and very few opium addicts attend hospitals for being broken of the habit. There is no medical cure for such a failing, but should there be in a hospital an opium addict endeavouring to give up the habit he would naturally be assisted by the administration of tonics for keeping up his strength.

OPIUM CONSUMPTION.

64. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state if Government has collected any statistics of the number of persons in the province, who use opium habitually?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : No.

REVISION AND APPEALS BY FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS.

65. Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) how many cases in revision and appeal were dismissed by the Financial Commissioners in the preliminary hearing, from January 1929 to January 1931;

(*b*) whether either of the Financial Commissioners heard the counsel engaged in these cases, and if so, in how many;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Revisions 509 and appeals 88.

(*b*) Yes in 2 revisions and 5 appeals.

(*c*) The Financial Commissioners did not consider it necessary to do so in any of the other cases, for the reasons given in reply to starred question[1] No. 1941, asked by Rai Sahib Chhotu Ram on March 5th, 1929.

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[1] Vol. XII, page 651.

Oxen Dissection at Veterinary College.

66. **Thakur Pancham Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— .

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the Veterinary College, Lahore, oxen are provided to the students for anatomic dissection ;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, since when has the practice been started ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that this new practice is calculated to injure the religious sentiments of Hindus and Sikhs ;

(*d*) if so, what steps the Government intends to take to abolish this practice ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Oxen could not be excluded from dissection.

(*b*) For some years.

(*c*) Government regret if this is so, but the practice is unavoidable if the students are to become efficient veterinary surgeons, as an intimate knowledge of the anatomy of the ox is essential for those practising in this country. All students, moreover, have declared in writing that they have no objection, religious or otherwise, to this practice.

(*d*) It would not be right for Government to deprive students of the best means of training.

Malikana rate in Lodhran tahsil.

67. **Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the *malikana* rate on the land of small holdings granted in Lodhran tahsil of Multan district is Rs. 3 ;

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative what is the rate of *malikana* in other colonies of Lyallpur and Montgomery districts and if there is any difference, the reasons for the same ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that these grantees of land in Lodhran tahsil find it difficult to pay this high rate of *malikana* ;

(*d*) if so, what steps Government intends to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes ; per acre allotted for all perennially irrigated land in the Nili Bar Colony.

(*b*) In the Lower Chenab Colony the rate of *malikana* is 6 annas in the rupee of fluctuating land revenue, except in the Pir Mahal, Khikhi and Burala Extensions where the rates for reward grantees are at present the same as in the Nili Bar.

In the Lower Bari Doab Colony in Montgomery district the rate is one rupee per acre matured, except for landed gentry and reward grantees in the Renala Lift Area, where the rates are the same as in the Nili Bar.

[Hon. Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

(c) Government is fully aware of the difficulties of all zamindars in making cash payments.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

HEAD CONSTABLE, FARMAN ALI (RAWALPINDI DISTRICT).

68. Mian Nurullah : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Head Constable Farman Ali (Rawalpindi district) was dismissed from the police force in July 1929, by the Superintendent of Police, Rawalpindi;

(b) whether it is a fact that he was charged for not registering a case, destroying evidence of the offence and for accepting illegal gratification;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the departmental enquiry held into his conduct was one-sided, most of the important witnesses for the prosecution and defence having been examined in his absence and the accused not being afforded opportunities of cross-examining them;

(d) whether the accused Head Constable applied to the higher officers against the disregard of usual procedure in his case, and if so, what notice was taken of this?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) It is neither in the interests of the public, nor in the interests of police discipline to disclose the grounds leading to the dismissal of the head constable.

(d) Yes, a petition was preferred to the Local Government and it was rejected.

FARMAN ALI, HEAD CONSTABLE, RAWALPINDI.

69. Mian Nurullah : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware that at the bottom of the charges brought against Farman Ali, Head Constable, Police, Rawalpindi district, who was dismissed in 1929, was Jamadar Ali Mardan who had been reported against by the head constable;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Head Constable had put in over 25 years' creditable service in the Police Department:

(c) whether it is also a fact that some other police officials who were involved with Farman Ali for the same or similar charges were reinstated and only he was punished;

(d) if so, whether Government intend to re-open the case of Farman Ali?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No ; the head constable had twenty-one years' service in the police.

(*c*) No officer found guilty of misconduct was reinstated.

(*d*) No.

AJJO-BIR ROAD, DISTRICT KANGRA.

70. Thakur Pancham Chand : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether road from Ajjo to Bir, tahsil Palampur, district Kangra, is maintained by the Government or by Mandi State ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that the above said road is in a very bad condition ;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) above is in the affirmative, what steps the Government intend to take to improve its condition ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : It is regretted that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated the honourable member when ready.

PACCA ROAD FROM GHATTA TO VILLAGE BIR.

71. Thakur Pancham Chand : Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that toll is collected at Ghatta while going to Mandi State territory ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that village Bir in tahsil Palampur, district Kangra, is not approachable except by passing through the Mandi State at Ghatta and the inhabitants thereof have to pay the toll every time they go to the village ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that the pacca road from Ghatta to the village Bir on which toll has to be paid is only half a mile long ;

(*d*) if so, what steps the Government intends to take to remove this hardship of the people affected ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The toll has to be paid by all those who travel by any vehicle towards village Bir and on towards Mandi and Kulu.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Enquiries will be made from the Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, as to whether real hardship to the villagers of Bir is involved in the levy of the toll by the Mandi Durbar.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AT SHAHDARA.

72. Thakur Pancham Chand : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the inspection reports of the courts in the Shahdara tahsil for the last 3 years commented that there was no necessity for appointment of any more magistrate in the tahsil ;

(*b*) if so, what is the necessity for the proposed formation of a Bench of Honorary Magistrates at Shahdara ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

JAMSHED KHAN, RECORD-KEEPER, BRITISH CIRCLE, SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

73. Pir Akbar Ali : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state regarding one Jamshed Khan, Record-keeper in 1st British Circle, Sutlej Valley Project—

(*a*) the date of his employment in the canal service ;

(*b*) the names of the Executive Engineers under whom he served with their remarks in his personal file ;

(*c*) whether he was recommended in August 1929, by the Executive Engineer for clerical employment in the Punjab Irrigation Secretariat ;

(*d*) whether during 1929, he was recommended for enrolment as Tahsildar and later on as Naib-Tahsildar by the Executive Engineer ;

(*e*) whether he was also recommended for special increment ;

(*f*) whether the Government is aware that the said Jamshed Khan has now been discharged, if so, on whose report and why ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is regretted that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

SIGNALLING STAFF, 1ST BRITISH CIRCLE, SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

74. Pir Akbar Ali : Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) the strength of the signalling staff in the 1st British Circle, Sutlej Valley Project, stating the community to which they belong ;

(*b*) how many out of them have been discharged, with their names and the community to which they belong ;

(*c*) the names and qualifications of the undischarged signallers who are senior to the discharged ones by three months or less ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) At the end of the flow season of 1930, the total strength of signallers (inclusive of Operators and apprentices) was 59, composed as under—

Hindus	36
Sikhs	9
Muslims	14

(*b*) Owing to seasonal reduction of establishment 10 of the junior-most and least qualified men were discharged. These comprised—

Hindus	2	Kahan Chand. Hari Chand.
Sikhs	3	Kartar Singh. Bakhshish Singh. Sadhu Singh.
Muslims	5	Sultan Muhammad. Anwar Ali. Abdul Rahim. Wali Muhammad. Karamat Ullah.

(*c*)

	Name.	*Date of appointment.*	*Qualifications.*
1.	Girdhar Lal ..	5th November 1928.	Entrance.
2.	Balak Ram ..	21st March 1929	Middle, 4 months' previous service.
3.	Dalip Singh ..	22nd March 1929	Middle, 3 months' and 4 days' previous service.
4.	Jagdish Rai ..	29th May 1929 ..	Entrance, 4 months previous service.
5.	Amar Chand ..	23rd March 1929	Entrance.
6.	Babu Ram ..	26th March 1929	Middle.

SHAM SINGH, SIGNALLER, 1ST BRITISH CIRCLE, SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

75. Pir Akbar Ali : Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state regarding Sham Singh, Signaller, in the 1st British Circle, Sutlej Valley Project—

(*a*) whether he was recommended for dismissal by the Executive Engineer on 28th October 1926 ;

(*b*) if so, what was the offence for which he was so recommended and what punishment was awarded to him ;

(*c*) whether he applied for leave for illness and, if so, how many times ;

(*d*) whether he was sent to the Civil Surgeon for medical inspection and, if so, the Civil Surgeon's report ;

(*e*) whether his case was referred to the Superintending Engineer for dismissal for wilful absence and, if so, the action taken by the Superintending Engineer ;

(*f*) whether he appealed and, if so, the result ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Inefficiency. None, but he was transferred to another division.

(*c*) Yes, thrice.

(*d*) Yes. No appreciable disease was detected.

(*e*) Yes. Superintending Engineer ordered that the Signaller's services should be dispensed with.

(*f*) Yes. Orders of discharge were withdrawn.

ABDULLA, PATWARI IN THE SOHAG DIVISION.

76. **Pir Akbar Ali** : Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether Abdulla, a patwari, in the Sohag Division, was proscribed from canal service on account of running away from his duty ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Sham Singh was not proscribed for a similar offence of absence for 15 days ;

(*c*) if so, what are the reasons to differentiate between the two cases ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

77. **Sardar Buta Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a Government Maternity Hospital has been opened or is about to be opened at Lahore ;
(*b*) if not opened yet, when it will be opened ;
(*c*) the number of beds in the Hospital ;
(*d*) the class of people this Hospital is to cater for ;
(*e*) whether the poor will be admitted free ;
(*f*) whether it will be for Indians only or for Europeans as well ;
(*g*) if for both, whether a portion of the accommodation will be reserved for Indians and a portion for Europeans ;
(*h*) what will be the scale of charges ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) The Government Maternity Hospital, which is officially styled Government Hospital for Women and Children, has been opened at Lahore.

(*b*) Does not arise.
(*c*) 56.
(*d*) The Hospital is to cater for all classes.
(*e*) Yes.
(*f*) It is meant both for Indian and European patients.
(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) A copy of the existing scale of charges for patients admitted to the paying wards is laid on the table.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

RULES REGARDING THE PRIVATE WARDS.

1. The Private Wards of the Government Hospital for Women and Diseases of Children are open to Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians on payment of the following charges :—

For persons whose income does not exceed Rs. 150 per mensem, Re. 1 per diem.

For persons with a monthly income of Rs. 151—250 per mensem, Rs. 2 per diem.

For persons with a monthly income of Rs. 251—500 per mensem, Rs. 4 per diem.

For persons with a monthly income of Rs. 501—750 per mensem, Rs. 6 per diem.

For persons with a monthly income of Rs. 750 per mensem and upwards, Rs. 10 per diem.

The actual rate at which the patients will be charged is to be decided by the Medical Superintendent, who may use his discretion in each particular case.

2. The daily charges include the cost of diet according to the Hospital scale. When alcoholic stimulants are prescribed patients must provide these at their own expense. This also applies to articles of food not included in the Hospital dietary, as well as to medical comforts such as jellies, meat essences, biscuits, etc., and fuel.

3. Stimulants must be made over to the charge of the House Surgeon, who will see that they are administered at the prescribed hours, and in the prescribed quantities. Patients are not allowed to treat visitors to any form of spirituous liquors.

4. The scale of Medical Officer's attendance fee and the scale of fees of operations of various kinds charged to patients accommodated in the private rooms are as follows :—

Operation Fees.

Persons whose income does not exceed Rs. 150 per mensem, free.

Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 151—250 per mensem, Rs. 50 maximum.

Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 251—500 per mensem, Rs. 100 maximum.

Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 501—750 per mensem, Rs. 150 maximum.

Persons with a monthly income of Rs. 750 upwards, Rs. 200 maximum.

It is left in all cases to arrangement between Medical Officer and patient what the actual fee should be.

Visiting Fees.

Income up to Rs. 150 per mensem, Nil.

Income from Rs. 151—500 per mensem, Rs. 5 per diem.

Income from Rs. 500 per mensem and upwards, Rs. 10 per diem.

These fees may be reduced at the discretion of the Medical Officer in attendance on the case.

It will also be admissible to arrange a composition fee to include operation and after treatment. If this is done the fees will be :—

Income up to Rs. 150 per mensem, free.

Income from Rs. 151—250 per mensem, Rs. 100.

Income from Rs. 251—500 per mensem, Rs. 150.

Income from Rs. 500 and upwards, Rs. 300.

5. Patients occupying private wards must within 24 hours of admission pay ten days' fees in advance. No exception can be made to this rule and patients who fail to comply with it will be transferred to the General Wards. Fees are payable to the House Surgeon who will furnish a receipt for the amount paid.

NOTE.—Day to be reckoned from midnight to midnight.

6. Annas 8 per diem will be charged in addition to the Room fee for Electric Fans in Summer, if required.

7. Patients on regular diets are supplied with three meals daily which will be served at hours fixed by the Medical Superintendent and no patient is allowed to have food of any kind except that ordered on the bed head tickets. Patients' friends are earnestly requested to observe this rule strictly as fatal results have followed its neglect.

8. One private servant is allowed to be with each patient whilst in Hospital.

GOVERNMENT MATERNITY HOSPITAL AT LAHORE.

78. Sardar Buta Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many nurses are going to be engaged for the new Government Maternity Hospital at Lahore ;

(*b*) what will be their minimum qualification ;

(*c*) whether it will be obligatory for these nurses to have qualified from England ;

(*d*) whether nurses who have qualified from Lady Reading Hospital will be considered eligible ;

(*e*) whether Indian nurses possessing minimum qualification will be considered eligible ;

(*f*) whether any number of posts have been reserved for Indian nurses, if so, what is that number ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) The number of nurses at present sanctioned for the Government Hospital for Women and Children is 16.

(*b*) Minimum Educational qualification for—

(*i*) *Probationers* is Middle School in English.

(*ii*) *Staff Nurses* is three years' general hospital training *plus* Central Midwives Board diploma.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) No posts are reserved for any community, and when an appointment becomes vacant it is filled by the most suitable applicant. There are at present 6 European probationers, 4 Indian and 3 European Staff Nurses employed in this Hospital. Efforts were made to engage 3 Indian probationers but only one satisfactory candidate applied and has been offered the job.

GOVERNMENT MATERNITY HOSPITAL AT LAHORE.

79. Sardar Buta Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the scale of salary for nurses to be engaged for the new Government Maternity Hospital at Lahore ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The scales for nurses to be engaged in the Government Hospital for Women and Childern, Lahore, are—

(*i*) nursing sisters : Rs. 200—10—250 *plus* board allowance at Rs. 1-12-0 per diem and uniform allowance at Rs. 15 per mensem ;

(*ii*) staff nurses : Rs. 100—10—150, *plus* board allowance at Rs. 1-4-0 per diem and uniform allowance at Rs. 10 per mensem ;

(*iii*) probationary nurses : Rs. 25 *plus* board allowance at Rs. 1-4-0 per diem and uniform allowance at Rs. 10 per mensem.

PUCCA ROADS IN AMBALA AND KARNAL DISTRICTS.

80. Kanwar Mamraj Singh Chohan : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Shahabad-Jagadhri Road of the Karnal-Ambala districts was included in the 15 years' programme of providing pucca roads adopted by the Government ;

(*b*) whether the District Board of Ambala requested the Government by a resolution to add the road from Jagadhri to Bilaspur to this programme ;

(*c*) what the Government intends to do in the matter ;

(*d*) how far Government has progressed with the 15 years' programme ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) No. No 15 year programme has ever been prepared by Government.

(*b*) Yes. The District Board passed resolution No. 36 at their meeting held on 5th December 1930 to this effect, but they were asked by the Communications Board to apply for a grant-in-aid when they proposed to undertake the work.

(*c*) The Communications Board should be approached for a grant.

(*d*) Does not arise.

NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

81. Kanwar Mamraj Singh Chohan : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many district boards have non-official chairmen ;

(*b*) how many of them have been allowed to have such chairmen since the introduction of the reforms and in what year ;

(*c*) what steps the Government intends to take in the matter now ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : It is regretted that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN SHEIKHUPURA DISTRICT.

82. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have received any recommendations from the Commissioner, Lahore division, for the formation of Benches of Honorary Magistrates in the Sheikhupura district ;

[Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.]

(b) whether it is a fact that some changes were suggested by the Commissioner in the original recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner, which made the Deputy Commissioner to modify his recommendations ;

(c) if so, whether Government intends to decide the case after considering both the original and subsequent recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Yes.

(b) Government has no information on this point.

(c) Does not arise.

RULES FOR SUPPLY OF WATER BY IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

83. Mian Nurullah : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any obligation on the part of the Secretary of State for India or the Irrigation Department to supply a certain quantity of water to lands granted or sold ;

(b) what is the nature or extent of that obligation on different canals in this province ;

(c) if there are any rules and regulations for the Lower Chenab Canal on that point, whether he will kindly lay them on the table ;

(d) whether any alteration has been made since they were framed, if so, what ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d) Do not arise.

COMPENSATIONS DUE TO DIVERSION OF CHAKKI.

84. Thakur Pancham Chand : Arising out of the answer given to Council question[1] No. 172 (starred) on the 6th March 1931, will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is prepared to sanction squares instead of cash compensation which has been refused by the zamindars ;

(b) whether the Government is prepared to consider the recommendations made by the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) and Shaikh Nur Muhammad ;

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the recommendations made by the Financial Commissioner and Shaikh Nur Muhammad ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) No.

(b) This has been already done.

(c) No. The correspondence is confidential.

[1] Pages 801-302 *ante*.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AND TOKEN GRANTS, 1930-31.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Sir, I have to announce to the Council that the supplementary and token demands included in the revised list of to-day's business are recommended by His Excellency the Governor.

IRRIGATION WORKING EXPENSES.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member] : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,120 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Irrigation Working Expenses."

Mr. President :

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,120 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Irrigation Working Expenses."

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the grant be reduced by Re. 1, with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,000—Sutlej Valley Project—Laying reinforced concrete skin in bays 1—12, Ferozepore Weir."

My main object is to bring to the notice of this House how the Engineering Department is working with regards to our new Heads of Canals and with regard to our new construction.

Mr. President : I do not think the honourable member is in order in discussing the efficiency of the Irrigation Department. Only a supplementary demand has been moved and I presume the honourable members are well aware that a debate on supplementary and excess demands is to be restricted only to those demands or the items constituting them. The object as stated in the notice given by the honourable member and also stated by him now is to discuss the inefficiency of the working of the Irrigation Department. I do not think the honourable member is in order. He can discuss only the demand that is moved or any matter of policy involved therein, but if he goes beyond that he will be out of order.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I want to discuss the inefficiency of the working of the department with regard to this particular item, and that is, as I have noted down, this amount of Rs. 1,00,000. I do not want to discuss the whole department at all.

Mr. President : The object stated in the notice is very general.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I have said that I want to move a cut of Re. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,000.

Mr. President : Well, if the honourable member restricts his speech to the particular item which he wishes to reduce he will be in order.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : Certainly. I will try to limit my remarks to this particular item. As I was just going to explain, Sir, it must be within the memory of many members of this House that only three years ago this weir was opened by His Excellency the Governor and

[K. B. Sardar Habib Ullah.]

some of us were present at that time. So far as I remember, lots of things were said in praise of the Department and of the people who were constructing this head. Now just after three years what do we find ? The Department has come forward with a demand of more than a lakh of rupees and this is what they say in their notes—

> "The top layer or skin of the Ferozepore Weir has separated from the core of the Weir in many bays. This damage is due to the particular method of construction adopted in the absence of experience regarding the behaviour of mass concrete in works of this type."

I would say, Sir, that I am really ashamed to hear an admission on the part of our engineering staff and our Irrigation Department that they did not know even the ordinary type of concrete work which I think is being done in North India as well as in other parts of the country for a very long time. The result is that this inefficiency on the part of the Department is costing the province a big amount of money. This House would remember that only recently on account of floods and other reasons the Islam Weir and some other places were burst and at that time also it was said perhaps that they were inexperienced (*A voice* : No, no, it was due to floods alone). Anyhow, some sort of an enquiry was held then, the exact details of which we the members here do not know, but I am told that the enquiry was not thorough and the people know that things were not done in the way they ought to have been done. What happens in the Department is this. The tenders which the contractors submit for the contract are very low. I know that they are 20 or 30 per cent. below the estimated rates, and these contractors have to bear over-head charges also. I do not know what they are, but they say that they have to pay 10 or 15 per cent. as over-head charges. The result is that they are out of pocket to the extent of as much as 40 per cent. on the estimated rates, and the remaining 60 per cent. they have got to spend on the works. That is a very defective way of giving these contracts. I have a little experience of my district board here. What we do there I would like to suggest to the Chief Engineer, though our works are of very trivial nature, yet the system may help him. What we do is to see that estimates are prepared properly and then we have definite instructions to our contractors that no contracts whose tender is below 10 per cent. will be entertained by the Board. The result is that very few contractors give us very low tenders, but at the same time we see that the work that is given to them is properly done under proper supervision. I think if more supervision is given to these big works the things will not be as they are put before us to-day.

I wanted to bring this item particularly to the notice of this House for a certain other reason also, and that is this. As this House is well aware a demand has been made for the construction of Bhakra Dam. My friend from Rohtak is always pressing for this and he wants this work to be taken in hand very soon. I understand that much of that work would be of concrete nature and if the small works which have already been taken in hand by our Engineering Department have resulted in this state of affairs, goodness alone knows what will happen when we take up a big work of the nature of the Bhakra Dam. Therefore when this demand came to my notice I was really horrified to know that after only three years, concrete

work has cracked and wants these special repairs. If the honourable Chief Engineer would throw any light on this matter, I shall be very much pleased.

Mr. President: Demand under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Re. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 1,00,000—Sutlej Valley Project—Laying reinforced concrete skin in bays 1—12, Ferozepore Weir."

Mr. J. B. G. Smith [Chief Engineer]: Sir, I am not at all sorry that my honourable friend raised this motion but I am rather surprised to find the line he took to do it. Before I heard your ruling that he could not treat the matter generally with regard to the inefficiency of the Department I thought that he might make his motion on somewhat different lines, but as you confined him to the item of expenditure on which he spoke, I must do the same. I must admit that the wording of the memorandum is unfortunate but one result of that will be what I have been striving for for the past four or five years, that is, to see that the memoranda are prepared not only more correctly but are expressed more aptly than they have been in the past. I say that because the statement about our inexperience of mass concrete seems to have led the mover of this resolution into rather a sorry mistake. I think I heard him aright when he said he was horrified that we did not know what to expect when we put in mass concrete; that he knew that concrete works,though perhaps not of the magnitude of works of this nature, had been constructed for I forget how many years, perhaps scores of years but certainly for many years past, and that he knew all about it and that we did not. That being so, I did naturally expect some constructive helpfulness, but all that this House gets from his speech is criticism which is destructive, in that his obvious intention is that the Bhakra Dam should not be constructed until we know more about using concrete. This in spite of this assertion that he has ample experience of concrete in a district board, which district board he did not mention. To start with this type of construction has not been in practice in the Punjab, or at any rate in Northern India, for more than five or six years. The concrete that was used previously was lime concrete. We are dealing with a totally different subject cement, and while we knew perfectly well that cement concrete would crack very much more than lime concrete, we apparently did not know exactly to what depths cracks go in a mass. There are different ways of dealing with this and the work at Ferozepore to which allusion has been made here, is a reinforced skin which is intended to hold the mass together and resist the effect due to cracks in the setting operation. Now, the criticism that the honourable member levelled at us that he was really horrified to find that we did not know how to build ordinary concrete work, that he had done it in his own minor activities as he expressed it, probably rather surprised this House. I would like to give them a little information on that point.

You will remember that an American expert came out here to examine the site of the Bhakra Dam. Somebody asked him if the building of a 400 feet dam did not unnerve him. He replied, 'No, I am accustomed to build 400 feet dams; but what has surprised me is the way your Engineers here have built dams not on rock but on sand.' I take it that the honourable member had not got any knowledge of our former, what I shall call, accidents or

[Mr. J. B. G. Smith.]

damages to our works. The honourable member said, "only three or four years ago the weir at Ferozepore was opened and now we are being called upon to spend more money on it. If he will take his memory back he will remember a responsible member's statement in his speech at the opening ceremony that even if sometimes these works which the Engineers have built did fail, there might be, I will not say excuse, but some reason for it. Happily, he said, to use his words, " we have not had any such big calamity." That was in 1926. I do not think the mover knew that works built 30 years ago failed within the first year. You cannot expect when you build a work on sand foundations that you are never going to have any difficulty or any trial, unless you are prepared to spend such a sum as will make the works fool-proof. That will cost the province sore. The Engineer's job is not to make a thing fool-proof, but to make it efficient as cheaply as he can. The expression 'as cheaply as he can' will probably remind the members that the honourable mover had some advice to offer us as regards the manner in which we did the work. He suggested, or rather he said that we did the work on contract. He referred to the" unfortunate contractor" who has got to pay "over-head charges whatever that may be" with the net result that he is left with 60 per cent. of the money that he has contracted for to do the work instead of the 100 per cent. Not only none of these weirs, but none of our works are built on contract. If we follow that system the contractor will be bound to do the work for a certain sum. No contractor knows what the river is going to do from day to day, let alone for a period of five years. So, if he was going to take a contract knowing that the over-head charges were going to be something like 40 per cent. of the figures he was going to quote, he would quote a figure which would be prohibitive. Actually what happened was this. Materials were supplied separately by Government. Cement was obtained from Wah chiefly. Every wagon of that cement had a bag tested locally at Suleimanke, and out of every 20 or 30 bags—I forget the figure now—one bag was sent to Calcutta, to Alipur for independent test. So far as materials went, that was the position.

As regards the actual execution of the work, it is done by what we term "labour rates." Those labour rates are frequently, or I should say, periodically reviewed by the Chief Engineer and occasionally by the member. Now all that the contractor gets paid for is the labour work that he does. Also, the argument of the honourable member that there was not sufficient supervision is not correct. In the case of this particular work I would like this House to remember that the North-Western Railway took considerable interest, for, as the House knows it is the main line of railway. Whatever supervision might ordinarily have been lacking on the side of the irrigation branch was reinforced by the care and forethought and consideration that the North-Western Railway put into that work. Finally the honourable member said that we ought to have used lime concrete. If we had adhered to lime concrete on these weirs we might have been building still. A little reading of some of our literature, which I can give the honourable member if he cares to take the trouble of reading it, will show that it takes a much longer period to build in lime concrete and even then the works have suffered in the ordinary course of event. If the honourable member thinks for one moment that the trouble at Mangla was due to inefficiency

I would like to explain that in the case of Mangla—I do not know how many members of this House have seen it—you have a wall 100 feet high, you got the river pouring in over the top of it and at either side of it in 1929 and yet that work stands to-day. If that work is not testimony to the efficiency of the department I should like to know what is. (*Hear, hear*).

Shaikh Abdul Ghani [West Punjab Towns, (Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, there is a proverb in Punjabi that only fools will build on sand. I am glad to know to-day in this House that science has made such rapid progress that these old adages and proverbs are being falsified day by day. Anyhow the learned Chief Engineer had to admit in his report that the absence of experience regarding the behaviour of mass concrete of this type was responsible for this break down. He has not tried to explain it away. Perhaps these papers were not submitted to him and he was not consulted before the report was drawn. Otherwise he would not have found himself in this unenviable position. Now, seeing this in black and white he says that it is unhappily worded. But I may point out that it is not only here that these words occur. I may refer him to page 4 of the estimates where it says, "This damage is due to the particular method of construction adopted in the absence of experience regarding the behaviour of mass concrete in works of this type." I do not think the Chief Engineer will find any excuse to get out of that. If such ventures were hazarded, it ought to have been with very great reserve, because after all it is a question of spending public money. The honourable member has referred to the admiration shown by some American expert. He said that the American expert expressed wonder, perhaps without saying anything further on the point. I think because he was a guest in this province, therefore he simply remarked that it was wonderful that our engineers were doing something which no one else had hazarded to do anywhere else either in America or in any other part of the world. That is why it broke down. The American gentleman was rather polite and did not want to hurt the feelings of his hosts.

Again, the learned Secretary referred to the unfortunate contractor. Any one who has lived in this country would find it very hard to agree with the learned Chief Engineer in describing the contractor as unfortunate. (*An Honourable Member*: It was the honourable mover of the reduction that used that expression.) I would like to draw the attention of the Chief Engineer to the fact that in the Punjab the wealthiest people are those who have been contractors either in the Railway Department or in the Canal Department. This I can say without fear of contradiction. These things should be carefully gone into. In season and out of season we have been trying here on the floor of this House to draw the attention of those responsible for this sad state of affairs, of those who are in charge of spending lakhs and crores of public money, to take account of all these things. How it is that when a scheme is carried on business lines and there is very litle margin left, how is it that these people find it very easy to amass wealth in a very short time? I think it is an eye-opener. It is a fact which we cannot loose sight of. All those officers of Government who are responsible for administering these departments should think in their heart of hearts how is it that these people grow so wealthy so soon. Again he referred to Rasul Headworks and he

3 P.M.

[Shaikh Abdul Ghani.]
cited that in support of this particular head work. He said that Rasul works were also carried away and they did not build that on sand. But Rasul Works were carried away not because there was a difficulty in the construction thereof, but because there was a heavy flood and it was because of these floods that the Rasul Works were carried away. Mr. Ashton who was in charge of this subject last year said that no amount of experience or skill could have saved the Rasul Works because the floods were abnormal. You cannot take shelter behind this excuse and say that because the Rasul Works were carried away therefore it does not matter if these works are carried away. Then in the end he said that it does not appear to be due to inefficiency. But it is admitted in the memorandum that the officers who were responsible for the construction of these works lacked experience. What more is inefficiency, may I ask? So that is all what I had to submit. I could repeat my request once more : kindly take the fact that your province is impoverished and you cannot afford to waste money as you like. These contractors who have amassed wealth and have grown wealthy and fat you must try to squeeze as much as possible out of them, but you must do that on strictly business lines. That is all what I have to say.

Mr. E. Maya Das [Nominated Non-Official]: Sir, I wish to say a word about this item of Rs. 1,00,000 for the laying of a reinforced concrete skin in Ferozepore Weir. My difficulty is of a slightly different nature. On either side of these bays there are piers which support the weir, the Railway line and the bridge. That is to say there are three departments concerned in this work. There is the Irrigation Department, there is the railway Department and then there is the Buildings and Roads Department. When this work was constructed in answer to a Council question the share of all these departments in the completion of this project was given. Now, we find that this total amount of repairs is to be charged against one department only. These bays unless they are repaired will undermine the piers and if the piers get damaged the weir, the railway bridge and the road bridge all three constructions will receive damage. I tried to find out the reason why these estimates have been placed against one department only and from certain sources I received certain information but as that information which I received is not convincing I have stood up here to enquire the reason why only the Irrigation Department has been saddled with all this burden and why the Railway Department and the Building and Roads Department have not been asked to share it and why it is that they have been exempted from the future maintenance of these works.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore, (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I am sorry to hear the Honourable Chief Engineer on this cut. He has accused me of not giving him some constructive criticism. In the very start I said that I am drawing his attention to the working of his department I am not an expert in concrete work nor am I an engineer that I should give him some constructive criticism. Being a layman I could not do better than put these facts before this House. Then in a round about way he has accused me of saying that I do not want Bhakra Dam to come into existence very soon because in my opinion there are not sufficient engineers there for this work. Nothing of that sort. I never meant that Bhakra Dam should

not come into existence very soon, as a matter of fact I am one of those who would like to see it started to-morrow but at the same time I would very humbly submit that before taking that big work in hand sufficiently experienced men should be obtained to conduct that work. An outsider and a layman would not come to any other conclusion after reading the notes than that absence of experience is mainly responsible for this defect. They are self-condemned and that is what I wanted to bring to the notice of this House. Then the honourable Chief Engineer also said : look at our 100 feet high wall that we have built at some place. It is to the credit of the Department but to talk of Mughal Emperors and the buildings that they have left behind is not the way to deal with these important matters. I should have very much liked the Chief Engineer to have said better things than what he has said. I would have been satisfied if he had said that they would take good care in future when such works are taken in hand. Having built so many works they should be better experienced and will not make such mistakes. However I leave the matter in the hands of the honourable members of this House.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member] : Sir, the debate on this motion savours rather of a storm in a tea cup than anything else. The Chief Engineer was perfectly right in saying that it is on account of the unfortunate wording and interpretation of the memorandum which has lead to this misunderstanding. What the memorandum actually means is, if I may venture to explain, that it was due to lack of experience in this particular kind of work this extra expenditure had to be incurred. The honourable member is no doubt aware that the Punjab has the proud distinction of possessing the biggest irrigation works in the world, and the Chief Engineer made it clear in his speech that the Sutlej Valley Project was the first of its kind in which cement concrete was used on a large scale ; our former works were built in lime and lime concrete. It would be unfair to say that our irrigation officers were inefficient. The irrigation works in the Punjab have no parallel elsewhere and so it would be wrong to say that we could have imported better and more experienced officers from outside the province. The irrigation works in other parts of the country are insignificant as compared to our own and consequently our own officers are better experienced, and are second to none, in the country or elsewhere. I may, however, confess that I had the same misgivings as the honourable mover of this cut, when this item was brought to my notice some months ago. To satisfy myself I went to this weir myself and inspected it. I critically examined the damage and the work, as best as a layman could do, and had its technical aspect explained to me by the officers in charge there, and came away satisfied that these repairs were necessary, not because the work on the weir had been of faulty nature, but because we could not possibly afford to take any risk in a work of this nature which might if neglected involve enormous expenditure and loss later. Even if the cement concrete skin which was peeling off had not been reinforced immediately the work would probably have stood for many years, but in view of the Islam disaster it would have been unwise to take any risks and I am sure the honourable mover will agree with me that it is better to spend a small amount now as an insurance against any untoward accident in future. It was for this reason that we considered

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it advisable to undertake these repairs at this stage. I can assure the honourable member that every item of expenditure is carefully scrutinised by the department, and the heads of the department are keeping a vilgilant watch over all these matters and so far as a layman can do, I am taking every possible precaution to see that no unnecessary expenditure is incurred anywhere. I hope that the honourable member is now satisfied, after what I have said, that this item of expenditure was necessary and sanctioned only after very careful examination.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: After hearing the Honourable the Revenue Member I wish to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President: Question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,120 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Irrigation Working Expenses."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT, OPEN CANALS.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Irrigation Establishment, Open Canals."

Mr. President:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Irrigation Establishment Open Canals."

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Re. 1, with respect to the item of Rs. 1,07,520—IV.—Executive—Pay of Officers."

I find, that in the paper my object is wrongly stated as "to urge the necessity of recruiting new engineers." I did not state that to be my object in my notice. If you will permit me, I will draw the attention of Government that it has allowed the recruitment of new engineers dispensing with the existing temporary men. While on the one hand in the memorandum they say that they have made a reduction in the cadre of temporary engineers, on the other they have recruited new engineers?

Mr. President: Does the item in which a reduction of Re. 1 is proposed cover the appointment of new engineers?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: The memorandum states:—

"The additional provision is required under Pay of Officers and pay of Establishment, Under the former it is due to reversion of Senior Assistant Engineers and temporary Engineers from the Sutlej Valley Project owing to closure of certain divisions and sub-divisions. Under the latter the increase is mainly due to the provision made for new incumbents recruited in the Subordinates Engineering Service during the year and also to reversion to old classification of accounts in the Central Workshops"

Mr. President: The honourable member's object as stated in his notice of amendment relates to the necessity of recruiting new engineers.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: As most of the honourable members of this House know, the department has recently started the practice of retrenching temporary engineers. I understand that there are about 60 or 65 temporary engineers whose services are retained from year to year and some of these gentlemen are there from ten, fifteen and in some cases even twenty years. What I object to on the part of the department is the practice that in the last two years they have recruited new Assistant Engineers for the same sort of work that the temporary engineers were doing. We are told that as some of the works that were taken in hand have been completed and as some part of the canals have been handed over to the Bahawalpur State the services of some of the engineers are not needed any longer. I would be the last person to say, that when you do not require a man you must keep him anyhow. Of course it would be the right policy to dispense with men whose services are no longer required. But what I object to is that while this fact was known to the department for many years before, as they must have known that the services of many of these engineers would not be required from a particular time, they did not take care to see that no new men were recruited, at any rate within the last two years. What I would have liked the department to do is that instead of recruiting new men they ought to have given the posts to the temporary engineers, already in service provided they were efficient and good at work. There is always that condition to be satisfied. It may be said that the temporary engineers were not of the same qualifications or of the same efficiency as the new men who have been taken. I do not know the details, but as far as I understand, the new men that are in the service are practically of the same qualification and of the same standard of education as the temporary engineers whom they replace, but one factor is in their favour that is the experience which they have gained in the service which the new recruits do not possess. It must also be remembered that the services of these temporary men have been carried on from year to year. If they were not good enough to be retained in the service they ought to have been dispensed with long ago. But most of the people who have been sent away have been in service for the last so many years and the department has been renewing their period from year to year. And I cannot understand how they could be found at once to be inefficient after this long service. I wish to draw the attention of the House to this and would like to have the answer of the Government.

Mr. President: Demand under consideration, amendment moved—

> "That the grant be reduced by Re. 1, with respect to the item of Rs. 1,07,520—IV—Executive—Pay of Officers.'

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (Multan division, Non-Muhammadan, Rural): I rise to give my support to this cut moved by my honourable friend from Lahore. It is stated in the memorandum—

> "Under the latter the increase is mainly due to the provision made for new incumbent recruited in the Subordinate Engineering Service during the year."

When new upper subordinates were recruited last year the Irrigation Department knew very well that next year they would have to do away

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

with a lot of officers who would be reverted because of the Sutlej Valley Project having come to an end. I know very well that many upper subordinates who belong to the Subordinate Engineering Service are now acting as Sub-Divisional Officers. The best course for the department was to have foreseen the fact that all these upper subordinates could revert to their places in the Subordinate Engineering Service and the temporary engineers who had been engaged in the department for the last six, eight, ten or twelve years would go to take their place in the sub-divisions where they had been holding their job permanently or temporarily. This was a very simple matter for the department to consider at the time when they recruited the new upper subordinates. They recruited them last year and they are now dispensing with the services of nearly 16 or 18 temporary engineers who have served up to the length of 12 years. I have brought to the notice of the House during the budget debate that this is very hard on them. In a short time, I know, the Bhakra Dam Project will be taken in hand in some form or other in its preliminary stage. Then, what is the object of dismissing these people now and getting absolutely new men to-morrow for that project ? The result of it will be, as my honourable friend has complained that, the new hands will spoil the work of construction of such an important project as the Bhakra Dam. It is of course not my concern as to whether the construction is properly looked after or not by these new recruits. It is the Chief Engineer's business to attend to. But my anxiety is that forethought has not been exhibited by Government, and specially by the Honourable the Revenue Member, before engaging new upper subordinates last year and dismissing old hands in consequence this year. Even now I think it is not late. The new upper subordinates who were only engaged last year, are I think only temporary and some of them have not been confirmed so far. They can be dispensed with easily. The upper subordinates who as I have submitted are in charge of sub-divisions temporarily may be reverted and these temporary engineers with long service, in some cases of over ten years, to their credit may be put in their places. This is the chief object of the motion and if a little thought is given to the matter much disaffection in the Irrigation Department could be saved.

I may mention another fact. These temporary engineers who are to be dispensed with will be willing to serve on even a lower salary if they are only to be retained, because of the financial stringency and when the Bhakra Dam is in full swing they will be given their full pay. I am sure they will be willing to serve on this condition. It is very hard on men of 40 years and over to be deprived of their job and without any prospect of getting a new one anywhere. Therefore I submit that this motion should be carried.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : I should like first to dispose of the criticism of the honourable member sitting on this side of the House who has accused me and the Irrigation Department of want of foresight. I am sure, Sir, the House will agree with me and not with the honourable member when I say that in appointing temporary engineers instead of making permanent appointments to meet the requirements of the Sutlej Valley Project the department has shown commendable foresight. If this had not been done we would now be burdened with unnecessary expenditure. These temporary engineers when they

took up these appointments knew perfectly well that when constructional work was completed most of them will have to go. It is due to this foresight on the part of the department that we have been able to save to the province in this year of financial stringency an amount which otherwise would have been an unnecessary burden on the tax-payer. The honourable member representing Multan division rural Hindus also suggested that we should retain the services of these men for construction of the Bhakra Dam, and that they would be prepared to accept a reduced salary in the meantime. We all know that projects of the magnitude of the Bhakra Dam Scheme reqiure most careful and minute scrutiny and must pass through various stages of examination, technical, financial and administrative before it can be submitted for final sanction, and it may be that we have to wait for another four or five years before the actual construction of the Bhakra Dam can be taken up. In view of this, does the honcurable member still insist that Government should keep these people on the off chance that this scheme will be sanctioned say two or three years hence, and to pay them for doing no work till then ? Is the honourable member prepared to go to his constituency with that proposition and ask for a mandate ? (*A voice* : yes). If he is, I can safely prophesy that he will not be returned.

With regard to the criticism made by the honourable mover of the cut I should like to remove his misapprehension with regard to the recruitment during the last two years. When we recruited these men we were fully aware that some of the temporary men will have to be sent away. We knew that as the Sutlej Valley Project approached completion some of the temporary engineers would have to go. The appointments which we made last year were made to the permanent cadre of the provincial service of engineers. There were a number of vacancies in the provincial service cadre, and we decided that instead of sending away all the temporary men when the Sutlej Valley Project was completed, the best course would be to absorb the efficient men from amongst these temporary engineers into the provincial cadre and in time to do away with the temporary cadre altogether. If we have to undertake work on a new project we can always employ the extra men as required, by recruiting them temporarily. It was to avoid hardship as far as possible, that we decided to select some of the temporary men who were considered suitable for permanent appointment in the provincial service. (*An honourable member* : How many were taken ?) I believe, 8 but I speak subject to correction. I took 8 and my predecessor took 8.

I may also for his benefit mention that we offered permanent appointments in the Provincial Service of Engineers, to those Senior Temporary Engineers who were otherwise considered fit. Some accepted this offer while a few refused to accept appointments in the Provincial Service. Thus it will be seen that those who were considered efficient and suitable were offered appointments in the Punjab Service of Engineers. We could not take all of them into the permanent cadre, because we had to keep in view the wishes of this Council with regard to the proportion of agriculturists and non-agriculturists, and the representation of the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others. For this reason we had to go into the open market to secure the services of men who were equally or better qualified than the existing temporary engineers in order to make up the proportions laid down by Government and in the resolution of 1919 which is so often referred to in this House. In spite of these difficulties we have been able to absorb more than

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16 temporary engineers in the provincial service, during the last two years. More than this we could not do and that is why we have had to serve notice on some of these temporary men as their services are no longer required now that the work on Sutlej Valley Project is nearing completion. I sympathise with these people some of whom have been in service for more than six years— one has been in service for 8 years—but they must realise that we are not doing them any injustice because they were employed under contract, and only on a temporary basis ; and now that they are no longer required we are sending them away just as any private employer would have done under similar circumstances.

Mr. President : May I draw the attention of the Honourable the Revenue Member to the fact that the motion was moved with the set object of ascertaining why when temporary engineers are being disbanded new sub-engineers are being recruited ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I do not think the honourable member referred to sub-engineers.

Mr. President : The real point before the House is why a grant is being asked for for sub-engineers while the services of some temporary engineers are being dispensed with.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Khan Hyat : We recruit sub-engineers as vacancies occur in the service. But temporary engineers, some of whom have been in service for a number of years and have been holding charge of a division ; could not be expected to accept posts of sub-engineers.

Mr. President : The honourable member for Multan, Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram, said that they were willing to accept such posts.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : At any rate I have received no such representation, and I cannot conceive that they would be willing to accept subordinate posts.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : May I explain the point ?

Mr. President : Sorry, I am unable to allow the honourable member to make a second speech.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

Mr. President : Has the honourable member's speech been misunderstood or misconstrued by the Honourable the Leader of the House ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : At any rate I think he has not perfectly understood it, so far as I can gather from his reply.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : If I understood the Honourable Revenue Member correctly I think he intends to absorb these temporary engineers in the permanent cadre as and when permanent vacancies occur. If that is his view I will not press this motion.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Subject of course to the principle of efficiency.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of paymeet for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Irrigation Establishment, Open Canals."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT, SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I beg to move —

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Irrigation Establishment, Sutlej Valley Project."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,76,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Irrigation (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINSITRATION (RESERVED).

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 84,360 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respectof General Administration (Reserved)."

Mr. President :

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 84,360 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that come will in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of General Administration (Reserved).'

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I beg to move—

"That the total grant be reduced by Re. 1."

My object in moving this reduction is to enquire as to the necessity of so many officers on special duty.

Mr. President : I do not think to elicit information on a certain point is a legitimate object of a motion for reduction.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : As far as I can see, I think that has been the practice of this House.

Mr. President : The honourable member may criticise the policy or administration of Government, and the actions of its officers. But I am afraid he cannot move the reduction of a grant simply with the object of eliciting information regarding a certain matter. This he can do by a question.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : Then I shall oppose the whole grant and say what I want to say on the point.

Mr. President : The honourable member may do so.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I beg to oppose the whole grant. The memorandum put into our hands does not clearly show the necessity for so many officers on special duty. It does not explain the necessity for a grant of over a lakh of rupees for this purpose. No idea is given as to the special nature of the duty that is being done by these officers. The popular idea is whenever there is no regular work for an officer he is very conveniently put on some special duty. Or when any officer wants to be in Lahore or in Chhanga Manga or any other particular place he is always put there and called an officer on special duty. That is the general idea prevailing in the public mind. I want to know the nature of the special duty performed by these officers and the necessity for incurring such a large expenditure as nearly a lakh and a half on these officers at a time when the province is suffering from financial stringency.

Mr. President : The honourable member has apparently not heard the Finance Member. The grant moved by him is not for Rs. 1,50,000 ; but for Rs. 84,360.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : The memorandum gives Rs. 1,07,380.

Mr. President : No, that has been reduced to Rs. 84,360.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : Then I am satisfied for the time being.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 84,360 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of General Administration (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,820 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Administration of Justice."

Mr. President :

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,820 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Administration of Justice."

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I beg to move—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 48,000—Total Mufassal Establishment."

In doing so I would refer the honourable members to what is stated in page 13 of the memorandum. It says—

> "A sum of Rs. 6,590 is required to meet the pay of the Additional Government Advocate for the period of the extension of his appointment. Rs. 2,100 has been met out of the savings within the head and a supplementary grant of Rs. 4,490 is required."

Further on, dealing with mufassal establishment it says—

> "The excess is required to meet the expenditure on special allowances due to Senior Public Prosecutors appointed to conduct special cases outside their own district."

> "The excess is due to the expenditure on travelling allowance of Public Prosecutors placed on special duty and on transfers of Public Prosecutors made during the year in the interests of the Public Service."

I think that at the present moment when we require every bit of money for other useful purposes, the money that has been spent in getting the services of these public prosecutors is excessive, especially as the fees and other charges of lawyers have practically gone down to half of what it was before. I do not know why Government should keep on giving the same high pay as they have been giving in the past. I was told that a certain lawyer was engaged for a certain court on Rs. 300 a day, besides his retainer which I understood was Rs. 1,500 a month or perhaps more ; if I am wrong I should like to be corrected. In the meanwhile there are many public prosecutors in the districts who can easily conduct the whole of Government work, and I think this practice of engaging special public prosecutors is objectionable and should be stopped. The Finance Department wants Rs. 48,000, and I think Rs. 8,000 is not too big a sum to be saved out of it. It can easily be saved if proper supervision is exercised in the matter.

Mr. President : Demand under consideration, amendment moved—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 48,000—Total Musfassal establishment."

Mr. S. L. Sale (Legal Remembrancer) : Sir, I understand my honourable friend has taken exception to two items. One is the pay of officers in regard to which the memorandum says : "A sum of Rs. 6,590 is required to meet the pay of the Additional Government Advocate for the period of the extension of his appointment." That appointment was made in 1929 and owing to the trial of the Lahore Conspiracy case which finished under the Conspiracy Case Ordinance in October 1930, the Government Advocate who had been placed on special duty in that case in July 1929 had to be continued in his appointment until the 12th of October 1930. That necessitated the continuance of the special appointment of an Additional Government Advocate which had been made in order to relieve the Government Advocate of his lawful duties. Inasmuch as the House agreed to the principle of this appointment in the year 1929-30, I do not think that any exception can be taken to the continuance of the appointment in the present year owing to special circumstances over which we had no control.

The other point to which the honourable member objected was the appointments made of special public prosecutors retained to conduct special cases outside their own districts, and in connecton with these the honourable member took exception to the fact that Government does not reduce the pay of public prosecutors generally. Now, Sir, this item of increased expenditure is not required to meet the pay of ordinary public prosecutors. It is required by the appointment partly of special public prosecutors who are specially selected, that is to say, senior public prosecutors already in the cadre specially selected to do special cases, and partly by a very large amount of overflow work that has occurred during the last year in the Lahore district. By far the greater portion of the item is to meet the payment to pleaders and advocates for appearing in cases which owing to the occupation of Government Pleaders, could not be done by the latter.

[Mr. S. L. Sale.]

As regards the case of special public prosecutors being appointed outside their own district, there were only two instances and those were for very special reasons. One was the Ahmedgarh Train Dacoity case for which a special public prosecutor was appointed, and in the other case, public prosecutor was taken specially from Gurdaspur to try cases of a communal nature that arose out of the *Bakr Id* disturbances of 1930 at Gurgaon. The cost of these items is comparatively small. The large items consist partly of payments to counsel retained in the Lahore district for Crown work which the public prosecutors do not find time to do, and partly of payments to defence counsel, firstly, in the First Lahore Conspiracy case and, secondly, in the Second Lahore Conspiracy case. When we budgetted for this sum last year we foresaw the payment of fees to Crown counsel in the case of overflow work in Lahore, but we did not foresee expenditure on fees of defence counsel in the case now proceeding before Special Commissioners in Lahore. The fee of these counsel amounts to something like Rs. 4,000 a month. That, Sir, is a demand which we are under an obligation to make because it is a settled rule that when accused persons have not the means to retain counsel out of their own pockets, in cases of any offence punishable with death, the Crown is bound to retain a counsel on their behalf. As a general rule the payments are as given in the Law Department Manual, but in the case now proceeding before the Special Commissioners, Government has owing to very exceptional circumstances, agreed to the payment of fees amounting to Rs. 140, per diem. Inasmuch as this payment is made for the defence and not for the prosecution, I do not suppose that the honourable member can take any exception to it. I may mention that we are in that case, paying four counsel. The leading counsel is being paid at the rate of Rs. 64 a day, two juniors are being paid at the rate of Rs. 32 each a day and a fourth junior at the rate of Rs. 20 a day. We have also agreed that these counsel shall be given half fees on days on which owing to circumstances over which they have no control there is no hearing before the Commissioners. These payments amount, as I have said, to many thousands of rupees per mensem and owing to the obligation which Government has undertaken for the defence of the accused, now under trial before the Commissioners, we cannot avoid their payment.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East Rohtak, Non-Muhammadan, Rural] : Sir, I beg to support the motion that has been made by Sardar Habib Ullah in respect of the second item, that is Rs. 48,000. The explanation that has been given by the Legal Remembrancer is not convincing and I wish to draw his attention to a few facts with regard to the engagement of special senior public prosecutors for conducting cases in Gurgaon and Hissar. So far as the trial of communal cases is concerned unfortunately we have to pay heavily for the communal tension and its natural product, mutual distrust. The case was between Hindus and Muhammadans and probably it was in deference to the views of the people in general that a public prosecutor who is neither a Hindu nor a Muhammadan, and therefore necessarily a Christian, had to be imported from another district. But there is another class of cases for the conduct of which Government has engaged public prosecutors from outside. There is a large number of cases, between 30 and 40 dacoity cases, which are being tried or which are going to be placed in court very soon in the Rohtak district. They

are very simple cases. There is no difficult legal point involved. I am appearing in some of them and I beg to submit most emphatically that any local pleader of three or four years standing would have conducted those cases with equal efficiency and probably on account of his knowledge of local circumstances he would have been a more efficient lawyer than a man imported from three or four hundred miles.

Another ground on which I object to these special allowances and special scales of pay is that as soon as a special allowance is attached to a post or special pay is allowed to an officer the temptation is to prolong cases as much as possible, and from what I have heard from people who appear in these cases it is apparent that prolongation is actually taking place. Several dacoity cases in one court which are being tried with the help of ordinary local public prosecutors are expected to be finished within a month, while in another court where public prosecutors have been brought from outside a similar number of these cases are expected to take at least six months. These are facts which can be easily verified. I do not want to dilate upon them any more because I drew the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member not very long ago to these facts and I hope he will take action and try to prevent this waste of public money which is occurring in Gurgaon, Hissar and Rohtak.

4 P.M.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Sir, the honourable member informs us that in Rohtak and possibly also in Hissar a large number of dacoity cases, which, he says, are of a perfectly simple character, are being prosecuted by a lawyer other than the ordinary public prosecutor of the district. (*Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :* Yes, in Rohtak district). So far as I am aware the only outside lawyer who is so employed in Rohtak is the Christian public prosecutor who was specially moved to Hissar to prosecute in a case or cases of a communal nature. He is also doing certain dacoity cases, but he is receiving no extra fees at all for these dacoity cases. He is receiving exactly the same fee whether he appears in the dacoity cases or only in the communal cases. With that exception I am not aware that any lawyer from outside Rohtak is at present engaged by the Punjab Government in the prosecution of dacoity cases. It is possible that there may be some cases in which the Delhi Administration is concerned where it has employed a lawyer of its own. I am not responsible for that. I do not think the honourable gentleman is right in saying that except for Mr. Rallia Ram any other outside lawyer is employed in the conduct of these cases. But I shall have enquiries made and I may tell the honourable member that if any such system is going on in which we can make any reduction of expenditure that reduction will assuredly be made.

Mr. President : Demand under consideration, amendment moved

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 8,000 with respect to the item of Rs. 48,000—Total Mufassal establishment."

The motion was lost.

Sardar Arjan Singh [Hoshiarpur and Kangra, Sikh, Rural] : I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Re. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 52,490 for Law Officers".

My object in moving the reduction is to secure economy.

Mr. President : A reduction of Re. 1 from a grant for Rs. 52,490 will not effect economy. Therefore I cannot allow the honourable member to move the reduction.

Sardar Arjan Singh : I shall merely invite the attention of the Government to the need for economy in this department.

Mr. President : The honourable member should have said so in the statement sent with his notice.

The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,820 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Administration of Justice."

The motion was carried.

POLICE.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Finance Member) : I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,44,810 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of police."

Mr. President :—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,44,810 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of police."

Sardar Arjan Singh : I move a reduction of the grant with the same object, namely to secure economy.

Mr. President : I am afraid the reasons for which his last amendment was rejected applies to his present amendment also and that, therefore, I cannot allow him to move it.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division, Non-Muhammdan, Rural] : I beg to move—

> "That the total grant be reduced by Re. 1."

To draw the attention of the Governments to the fact that the expenditure under police should now be reduced.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : On a point of order, Mr. President. I think this motion substantially revives a question on which the Council has given its decision in this session. I think therefore it cannot be discussed now.

Mr. President : I am not going to allow discussion on the general policy of Government regarding police. May I ask the honourable member with what object he intends to move the amendment in question ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I want to bring two or three important points to the notice of the House. In page 24 of the memorandum it is stated " The Local Government agreed to the vote of the Legislative Council being anticipated to incurring of expenditure in excess of that already sanctioned on the continuance of the additional police up to the end of the current financial year—"

Mr. President : The first point to be decided is whether the honourable member's motion is in order if he wishes to ask the Government to reduce the expenditure on police.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : There is one more point on which I want an explanation from Government.

Mr. President : If the honourable member wants information or explanation I think the proper course for him is to give notice of a question.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I want to discuss whether Government ought not under the changed circumstances reduce the expenditure on police.

Mr. President : That would amount to discussing the original grant which was sanctioned by the Council recently. I have more than once said from this Chair that the debate on a supplementary or excess grant should be confined to the grant itself or to the various items constituting it. However, if the policy involved in such grant or item is also the policy underlying the original grant, he is at liberty to discuss it.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I will oppose the whole grant.

Mr. President : The honourable member may please himself.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I oppose the whole grant for the following reasons. First of all I do not understand why Government should spend money in anticipation of the sanction of the Council and then come to the Council for sanction. If that is the case, the sanction of the Council is only a farce. The money has all been spent and now, on the 23rd March the Government comes to the Council for the sanction of a sum of money to be spent before the 31st of March. The Council sat in January. I do not understand why this demand was not brought before the Council in January. If this practice continues I submit there is no necessity at all to get any sanction from this Council. The Government can do what they like with the money at their disposal. This is one point that I want to bring to the notice of the Council.

The other point is this. A good deal of money is spent on the Criminal Investigation Department. Rs. 1,26,979 is to be spent on the department before the end of March. Although this department is doing good work, I have to say that a good deal of manufacturing of cases is due to this department. I want to tell the Finance Member that if expenditure on this department is reduced a good number of prosecutions and other litigation will decrease. I regret that all this sum has been sanctioned by the Council in the new budget. At that time it escaped my notice, otherwise I would have tried to get it cut down.

I submit to Government that they should no more keep their additional police ; there is no necessity for it. They justify their existence by merely increasing their work unnecessarily. Political agitation is now almost getting over and there is no need for additional police. If no retrenchment is made under this head it would be a matter of great regret to us. I therefore strongly oppose the grant for these reasons.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Re. 4,44,810 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of police."

The motion was carried.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : On a point of order, Mr. President, have I no right of getting an explanation or reply to what I said from the Honourable Finance Member ? You have been pleased to put the motion to the House before that.

Mr. President : I have already informed the honourable member that if he wants to elicit any information or explanation from Government the proper course for him is to give notice of a question. He cannot extort an explanation from the Honourable Finance Member by opposing a demand for grant. It is optional and not obligatory for a Government Member to reply to the speech of an honourable member of the House.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : He was going to reply, Sir.

Mr. President : Yes, after I had almost put the question.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : On a point of personal explanation, I should like to assure the honourable member that he is perfectly right. I was on the point of replying to his speech, but I am sorry to say that I could not catch the President's eye.

INDUSTRIES.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 36,880 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Industries."

Mr. President :—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 36,880 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st March 1931 in respect of Industries."

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Re. 1."

In so doing I would bring a very serious question to the notice of this House. Many of us know that the Government Weaving Factory, Shahdara, has been working for the last 4 or 5 years in Shahdara. Honourable members of this House are well aware of the activities of Shahdara and we have hardly finished with one big white elephant when this thing has come to our notice now. The department says that in the last half year they have lost Rs. 30,140. The working capital of this factory is Rs. 50,000 and out of that they have lost Rs. 30,140 and if this is the state of affairs I do not know what would be the good of keeping this factory. We know that this factory is a Demonstration Factory which is being run for the benefit of this province and which is to introduce weaving in this province and to teach the work of weaving to our labourers. I have had the honour of visiting that factory

once with the Director of Industries and was told by the people there thatPunjabis are hardly fit for this sort of work. I went round the factory and found that not many Punjabis were working there. Why is that so ? I was explained by the Supervisor of the Factory who is a Parsi gentleman and also by another U. P. gentleman, that this work will not suit the Punjabis because they are made for a different sort of work. They can be used for hard work and labour in the fields but it is very difficult for them to stand up for 8 hours and just do a little bit of work here and there. This is a different sort of work which will not suit the Punjab people, this is a point for the consideration of the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government. The Industrial Commission's report came to my notice the other day and I found just by chance a paragraph where they lay down that it must be clearly understood that the Government should only take the pioneering of an industry if private enterprise is not forthcoming and in order to ascertain and overcome the initial difficulty and to discover if the industry can be worked at a profit. Well if this is a model factory that is being run by the Punjab Government I do not think that it will be a very great encouragement for other people to come forward and to take up this sort of work in hand. This is the factory where they have lost Rs. 30,000 in six months out of a capital of Rs. 50,000. The total expenditure for the next year is fixed at Rs. 88,390 while in the present year it was Rs. 85,190. If this thing is to continue I am really at a loss to understand why a sum of rupees fifty or sixty thousands more was not provided to meet this loss which will certainly keep on accruing as the depression in trade stated in this memorandum is still there. My information about the weaving industry in other parts of India is that most of the mills working in Ahmedabad and Bombay are not running at a loss. Therefore I really cannot understand why a similar kind of factory running in the Punjab cannot meet this trade depression. There has been a great deal of demand for *Swadeshi* goods and when I visited the factory sometime back I was told that the whole of the output is taken away always by the local people. Why should there be such a loss then. This state of affairs should be stopped at once and the sooner the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government takes it into his hands the better it would be to save us from further losses.

Mr. President : Demand under consideration, the amendment moved is—

"That the grant be reduced by Re. 1."

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [Minister for Local Self-Government]: Sir, it is really regrettable that this concern should have worked at a loss. There are various causes and it will not be necesary to go into their details here. But honourable members should not forget that this concern did not start its regular work until the 1st of January 1929, and it is not always possible to show a profit in such concerns in the first two three years. Nevertheless I am quite prepared to admit that with a little more care and a little more foresight and a little better luck this loss might have been either avoided or perhaps its amount could be reduced. The losses are mainly due to depreciation which is really a book entry, machinery and buildings have to be installed before any work can be started and according to the method of accounting in such concerns something has always to be debited on account of depreciation in buildings and also in

[Hon. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

machinery. Then another item in the loss is interest on the capital outlay. This is also a loss which is really due to the method of accounting, otherwise it is not a loss which results from buying or selling. A part of the loss no doubt is due to ill-luck. A large amount of raw material was purchased and it could not be disposed of in manufactured form in time and in the meantime the prices of cloth fell and the concern had to suffer a loss. I may, however, assure the honourable members that during the year 1930-31 the work of this concern has shown much better results for instance in the month of August, taking these 7 or 8 months, during the month of August, the sales were about double, in September the sales rose by 30 per cent., in October, November, December and January, taking together, there was an increase of about 38 per cent. in the sales, in February the sales rose by cent per cent, whereas in 1929-30 the sales in February were only to the extent of Rs. 7,311 ; in February 1930-31 they were Rs. 14,992. The cash sales at the factory premises rose from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,299, so that during the last 6 or 7 months there has been a steady increase in the sales and naturally in the reduction of losses if not increase in the sales. I am not prepared to agree with those gentlemen who are said to have informed the honourable member for Lahore that Pubjabis are totally unfit for this kind of work. That would be really a slur on the capacity of my countrymen of this province and I am not prepared to admit it. They are no doubt stalwart and strong and fit for outdoor work for which people in other province are not so fit but they will not be beaten by the people of other provinces even in this kind of work which requires a combination of physical strength, endurance and skill. I am sure Sardar Habibullah will agree with me that the Punjabis lack neither in physical strength, nor application, nor endurance, nor brains and even this finer work they must do and they have been doing. Then the question is whether this factory should be allowed to continue or should be closed down. I may assure honourable members of this House that I have been given a definite assurance by the Superintendent who is incharge of this factory that the factory would begin to pay in the course of another year and perhaps the *Swadeshi* movement will be a boon to this factory. It is turning out very good material and I would invite the attention of all honourable members of this House that the variety is large and the stuff produced is very good and they would do well in patronising this concern of theirs so that the losses may be reduced and in fact may be converted into profits. In any case we must wait for another year and if better results are not shown we shall then try another experiment, we shall find out some one who may be prepared to take it on lease and pay a lump sum to the Government.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : After hearing the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government I wish to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : Question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 36,880 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Industries ".

The wotion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,500 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Miscellaneous Departments (Transferred).'

The motion was carried.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,400 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Buildings and Roads Branch Establishment Charges."

Mr. President:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,400 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Buildings and Roads Branch Establishment Charges."

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: If I am not allowed to elicit an information on this point I would like to oppose the whole demand with a view to get a reply from the Honourable Minister. Uptil now I was under the impression that Public Health Department and all its demands are to be met from the Public Health Department and not from the Public Works Department. There is an item occurring in the supplementary demands of Rs. 20,000 as a matter of fact it is Rs. 62,490 and the Honourable Minister says that no provision was made for such charges and now he has come forward for this amount. What sort of public health work is being done in the Public Works Department? This is what I wanted to know.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: If I may explain the matter, it is only a cross entry from one head to another. The Public Health Circle does work for the local bodies and the charges are credited to "33—Public Health." Similarly the work done by the Public Health Circle is paid for out of the Public Works Department grant under "41—Civil Works." It is in this way these charges have been raised against Public Works and have to be credited to the Public Health Department.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah: Does this sum represent the percentage to be paid to that department?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: Yes. The Public Works Department has to pay to the Public Health Department certain charges for the work done.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,400 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Buildings and Roads Branch Establishment Charges."

The motion was carried.

FAMINE.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: I move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 80,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Famine."

The motion was carried.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS (CAPITAL EXPNEDITURE).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: I move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,44,400 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (RESERVED).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: I move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,690 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Refunds (Reserved)."

Mr. President:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,690 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Refunds (Reserved)."

Mr. E. Maya Das [Nominated, Non-official]: I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Re. 1 with respect to the item of Rs. 30,000—Extraordinary Receipts—Refunds."

My purpose is to enquire into the circumstances which led to the resumption of the land and as to whether applications from others for grant of this land were received and if so, how they were dealt with.

Mr. President: The first part of the object of the cut would have been relevant if it were stated properly. But the second part is quite irrelevant and out of order. Even the first part aims at making an enquiry into the circumstances relating to the resumption of land. But an enquiry should be made and an explanation sought by questions. I rule that the motion is out of order.

Mr. E. Maya Das: I bow to your ruling.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 46,690 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Refunds (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: I move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,79,810 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministeries of Agriculture and Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Refunds (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: I move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,800 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of expenditure in England under the control of the Secretary of State."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION (WORKING EXPENSES).

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Revenue Member]: I move—

"That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Irrigation, Working Expenses."

The motion was carried.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik [Finance Member]: I move—

"That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931 in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

Mr. President:

"That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural] I move—

"That the total grant be reduced by Re. 1."

My main object is to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that special pay and special allowances happen to be a very common feature of this demand.

Mr. President: If the honourable member's object is simply to draw the attention of the Government to this fact, will it not be served by opposing the grant?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : I shall oppose the grant, if you please. My main object as I have stated, is to draw the attention of Government to the fact that they have very often taken this course that whenever they want to give more pay to certain officers they attach a special pay or a special allowance to the ordinary pay of the officers. I was given to understand by the Honourable Finance Member in his Budget speech that in future Government wanted to reduce the pay of new entrants into Government service by 15 per cent. In the jails and convict settlements I would point out to the House that the Assistant Superintendents have been taken on Rs. 80—their pay was originally fixed at Rs. 80 and they are still being engaged on Rs. 80 with a special allowance of Rs. 10. In the same way, sub-assistant surgeons whose pay is Rs. 70 get a special allowance of Rs. 40. Honourable members are doubtless aware that the value of sub-assistant surgeons has gone very much down ; in many places assistant surgeons are engaged on Rs. 70—in the district boards they are being appointed on such pay—without any allowance or special pay. This department seems to be very liberal in its pay. I do not object to these men getting more if they are of special merit, but it is creating a sort of jealousy in other departments, and local bodies. In fact they ought to accept less pay in Government service than under local bodies. I am sorry I was not present when the police demand came up, for as a matter of fact, this question of allowances could be better discussed there than here. Further on, we find Superintendents getting a pay of Rs. 780 with a special pay of Rs. 100. Special pay again of Rs. 100 to the medical officer. On the next page of the Memorandum, this special pay goes on in each case. Here of course the Assistant Superintendent is engaged on Rs. 80 with a special pay of Rs. 25 per mensem, Assistant Jailors, Rs. 75 with a special pay of Rs. 15 again. Why should not Government straightaway engage these men on higher scales of pay instead of fixing their pay at a small figure and adding to it by way of special pay and allowances ? That is my main object in moving this cut.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik [Finance Member] : The honourable member seems to have overlooked that this token grant relates only to two special jails. One is the Attock Fort jail and the other is the Gujrat special jail where a large number of A and B class prisoners were confined. The Attock jail is not a permanent jail at all. It was a camp jail improvised at short notice inside the Attock Fort. The conditions there were distinctly hard on the staff entertained. They had very bad accommodation. They were stationed in remote place at a considerable distance from any bazaar where they can get supplies and service there was peculiarly unpopular. It was on that ground that some of the staff were given allowances. In the particular case which the honourable member mentioned, that of the sub-assistant surgeon, the special pay of Rs. 15 a month was given on that account and also for the reason that he had no opportunities whatever of any kind of private practice. The Attock camp jail has now been closed down, all prisoners there having been released and these allowances will no longer be paid. I would like to remind the honourable member that this is the second occasion on which in recent years we have had to employ the Attock Fort as a temporary jail. The first occasion was in 1922, and on that occasion special pay of various amounts according to the class of the official was given to all the officials employed there. We could hardly on this occasion

refuse to grant similar allowances for service in this very unpopular and not very pleasant spot.

The second jail to which the token grant relates is the Gujrat special jail which was newly opened during the course of last year specially to accommodate A and B class prisoners. Those prisoners were of a different social class from the ordinary prisoners and required a rather special class of warders and staff to look after them. We sent there men specially selected for their capacity, intelligence and tact in dealing with those prisoners many of whom were men of education and good social position and whose proper treatment in jail gave Government a good deal of anxiety. That jail too has been closed down as a jail for political prisoners. It will, however, continue to be used as a jail, because we are taking this opportunity of moving into it all the prisoners confined in the old jail at Gujrat which has been condemned as an unsuitable building. But in future I hope there will hardly be any political prisoners in that jail and this allowance will be or has been stopped. The allowance paid to the Superintendent or the special pay of the Superintendent is the special pay which is paid to all Extra Assistant Commissioners who are employed in the jail department. The officer in question is an Extra Assistant Commissioner. He draws his grade pay in the Punjab Civil Service plus a special pay of Rs. 100 a month which is drawn by several other Extra Assistant Commisioners similarly employed. There is no question of any privilege attached to him. I trust that the honourable member in view of the explanation I have given will withdraw his objection.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements."

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Minister for Education]: Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Education (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED).

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh [Minister for Agriculture]: Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Mr. President :—

> "That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I want to have some explanation of this demand. I am not exactly opposing the demand, but I want to enquire from the Honourable Minister why he wants Rs. 49,000.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member wish to ask a question ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : The Honourable Minister wants money for a certain purpose and so I am entitled to have full particulars in regard to that demand.

Mr. President : Do I understand that the honourable member is not opposing the demand ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : No. The explanatory memorandum is not quite clear and so I want the Honourable Minister to further elucidate the memorandum in certain respects.

Mr. President : If the honourable member wants to ask a question or have an explanation I shall be glad to allow him to do so. But if he wants to have a discussion with the Honourable Minister I would suggest that this may be done outside the Council Chamber.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I shall put a formal question to the Honourable Minister. It is stated in the memorandum. " It is not proposed that the land should after acquisition be made over to the *sajjada nashin* and the district board is not in a position to pay the cost of acquisition which is estimated to be about Rs. 50,000." I should like to know whether Government is justified in spending this money and whether it is not the business of the district board to spend that money and acquire the land.

Mr. President : The explanation is given at length in the memorandum itself.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : I am not satisfied with that.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The explanation of this demand is that a big fair is held in the locality and the *khankah* there is visited by a large number of pilgrims and there is very little land to accommodate them. It is therefore considered necessary in the interest of public convenience and sanitation that this piece of land should be acquired. Negotiations have not yet been completed and every effort will be made to acquire this land at as low a price as possible.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Why should not the district board acquire this piece of land ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Has the district board got sufficient funds for the purpose? Besides this fair is visited not only by people of that district but by people from the whole province. Therefore it is primarily the duty of the Government to provide for their facility and convenience.

Mr. President : The question is—

> " That a token sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the chrages that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1931, in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (EXECUTIVE OFFICER) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration."

In moving this motion I need not make any lengthy speech. I may just refer honourable members to the report itself. From the report it would appear that as many as fifteen honourable members of this House were members of the select committee, that the select committee sat for five days the greater part of the day being spent on the consideration of the Bill. The select committee again met on the 6th March to consider the report drafted by the Secretary of the Legislative Department of the Punjab Government and for signatures. The report was signed by all the fifteen members with three gentlemen dissenting. Their note of dissent is printed at page 9 and discloses the points on which there was a difference. I may point out that every attention was paid to the points raised during the deliberations of the select committee and every effort was made to understand the points of view of the various members who brought forward amendments. A great deal of time was spent in discussing the various amendments from all points of view and the result was that with the exception of two or three points the Bill was approved unanimously by the members of the select committee. A perusal of the report will show that what I am submitting is borne out by facts. The original Bill is printed on the left hand side of the pages of the report at page 11 and the following pages and the Bill as amended is printed on the right hand side, and the changes made by the select committee are printed in italics so that at a glance honourable members can see in what respects the Bill was amended. I can only say that the apprehension that this Executive Officer Bill was going to be an infringement of the rights of municipal committees, should disappear after the perusal of the report. The Bill, to begin with, was not intended or calculated to make any encroachment upon the rights of the municipal committees. But it has been further amended and made milder in the select committee and this fact has been to a certain extent recognised by my honourable friend, Mr. Owen Roberts in the beginning of his note of dissent. In view of these facts I expect that the honourable members of this House will lend their support to the Bill as amended in the select committee. I pointed out the other day that the frame work of the Bill was exactly the same as it was when it was presented to this House by my colleague, Malik Firoz Khan, Noon. The work of the select committee has only resulted in making it more liberal from the point of view of municipal committees. With these words I commend the motion for the favourable consideration of this House.

Mr. President :

> "That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration."

Malak Muhammad Din [Lahore City (Muhammdan), Urban]: Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be circulated for the purposes of eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st July 1931."

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I rise to a point of order. My submission is that under Article 63 this proposition cannot now be discussed, because in this very session this very point was raised and the Council pronounced its judgment on this motion. Article 63 says, " A motion must not, except with the permission of the President raise a question substantially identical with one on which the Council has given a decision in the same session." The Council gave a very emphatic decision on this proposition and I think the division showed that 51 were for the consideration of the Bill and only ten were for circulation. I am speaking, however, subject to correction. No doubt certain amendments have been made in the select committee, but the frame work of the Bill is exactly the same.

Mr. President : Will the Honourable Member now refer to Article 89 (2)?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I have, Sir.

Mr. President : The honourable member's objection is untenable. The right of moving the amendment that a Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon is expressly provided for by paragraphs 83 and 89. Paragraph 83 relates to the stage when a motion for taking the Bill into consideration is made without reference to a select committee ; while paragraph 89 relates to a later stage, that is to say, after a Bill emerges from a select committee. The right of moving an amendment that a Bill be referred to a select committee is expressly provided by the aforesaid articles for two different stages. Therefore, I overrule the honourable member's objection.

Malak Muhammad Din : In moving the amendment I submit that if it is our desire to improve matters in the municipalities, it is for us to see that the action proposed to remedy the evil is such as would put matters duly right and will not clash unduly with the principle of self-administration on which the committees were started in 1884. The Bill even as it has emerged from the select committee does not satisfy either of these desiderata. It has been hanging fire for nearly the past five years and although it bears in its present form severe verbal changes, the select committee has not made any real improvement in the substance of the Bill. We may all agree that something should be done to rectify matters in the municipalities, but we cannot agree that anything may be done. To show that the Bill is not a panacea which it is claimed to be, I would refer to a few of its provisions. The provision relating to the appointment of—.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, is this permissible now? The honourable member cannot discuss the principle of the Bill. He has only to point out the necessity for recirculation.

Mr. President : The honourable member should not discuss the details of the Bill.

Malak Muhammad Din : I will do so only in general terms.

Mr. President : The honourable member cannot attack at this stage the principle of the Bill as the same was accepted by the Council when the Bill was referred to a select committee.

Malak Muhammad Din : When the Bill was introduced no member was allowed to discuss the principle of the Bill.

Mr. President : Did the honourable member rise at that stage to discuss the principle of the Bill and was he stopped?

Malak Muhammad Din : The fact of the matter is that Mr. Owen Roberts had moved the amendment. Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq had followed him. Then there was a suggestion from the Mover of the Bill that he was quite prepared to refer the Bill to a select committee. That is how no chance was given to members to discuss the principle of the Bill.

Mr. President : I do not think the honourable member can discuss the principle of the Bill at this stage.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : This question was debated by this House at a fair length. What is open to the honourable member is to point out the changes which have been made by the select committee and to discuss those changes.

Mr. President : The honourable member can discuss the Bill as reported by the select committee.

Malak Muhammad Din : I am moving my amendment on the present Bill as it has been reported by the select committee.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will that not necessitate a reference to the changes which the select committee has made?

Mr. President : Yes, the changes may be discussed but not in details as this can be done when amendments are moved.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : What about the discussion of the clauses of the Bill which have been altered or amended by the select committee ?

Mr. President : That discussion, I may point out, will be allowed when the clauses are considered and discussed in this House. This is not the occasion for discussing the clauses.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : If we have to make out a case for the circulation of the Bill as reported by the select committee, we have got to refer to the various clauses that have been altered or amended by the select committee. Then and then alone shall we be able to—.

Mr. President : The honourable member is an able lawyer, and therefore can make relevant what is really irrelevant.

Malak Muhammad Din : I may briefly refer to some of the provisions. Unless I do that it will be impossible for me to show to the House that it is necessary.

Mr. President : Refer by all means to such important points.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The object should not be obstruction.

Mr. President : I shall certainly see that the minority does not obtruct the majority. (*A voice :* And the majority does not override the minority) yes and the majority does not oppress the minority.

Malak Muhammad Din : If anybody deserves any protection, it is the minority.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member please proceed with his speech ?

Malak Muhammad Din : To show that the Bill is not a panacea as it is claimed to be, I would refer to one or two provisions very briefly. The provision relating to the appointment of an executive officer ordains that not less than two-thirds majority of a committee may appoint its executive officer.

Mr. President : Several amendments have been received on this point.

Malak Muhammad Din : What is going to be the subject for this motion then ? I want to point out the blemishes of the Bill in order to show the necessity for the circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion.

Mr. President : To elicit opinion whether the majority should be two-thirds or less.

Malak Muhammad Din : Whether the representatives of the people will be entitled to appoint their own executive officer which is the crying need of the moment. The Ministry is trying to usurp everything. Whatever power the local bodies possess, the Ministry is going to forfeit it. This is what I want to place before the House. Now, Sir, we all know the conditions prevailing in the country, and in view of the rampant curse of communalism it is impossible to expect any committee to produce a majority of two-thirds in favour of any candidate for the post unless—

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : This was already in the old Bill.

Mr. President : I am afraid I cannot allow the honourable member to discuss the question whether there should be a majority of two-thirds or less.

Malak Muhammad Din : I am not going to propose anything new, I am not going to suggest anything new. I will confine myself to the changes that have been introduced by the select committee. Unless a committee happens to be so largely preponderated by one community, it is impossible for any community to come to the stipulated agreement, and the proposition consequently amounts to this that in each and every case it would be the local Government appointing the executive officers and not the representatives of the people.

Another point is that if we agree and pass a bill containing such a reactionary measure, we shall also at the same time be confessing our utter incapability to manage our own affairs even on such a meagre scale as we at present happen to possess. Now I will refer briefly to the provision regarding suspension, and dismissal, etc., of the executive officer. The Government may at any time, without assigning any reason, suspend or dismiss the executive officer, but if the committee wishes to do that there should again be a two-thirds majority and if the two-thirds majority is not forthcoming the committee cannot touch him. It means that if the executive officer can manage to keep in humour a minority he can snap his fingers in the face of the majority. To put it differently, the natural urge for self-protection may induce or rather goad the executive officer to form a clique of one-third from amongst the elected and nominated members plus only

one member, and we may be sure that with the vast patronage at his disposal it ought to be an easy enough feat for him and having done that he can defy with impunity the wishes of the majority less only one member. And that is the panacea of the Bill which has been brought by the Honourable Minister.

One more point. The executive officer is empowered exclusively to appoint, suspend or dismiss an employee of the committee up to a certain standard. In other words if a certain employee drawing a certain rate of pay renders himself obnoxious not to one member but to the entire committee the committee will be utterly incompetent and powerless to touch him unless it elects to beg on its knees the executive officer himself to punish him, a request which he may or may not grant and he is more likely not to grant it out of consideration for his own prestige especially if the particular employee happens to be his favourite.

Mr. President : The honourable member does not appear to be right.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : He is not. I will answer that point in my speech.

Malak Muhammad Din : The only other alternative for the members of the committee would be either to play the farce of raising the pay of the employee over and above, the prescribed standard in order to give vent to their feelings and satisfy their enraged feelings. Which of these two ways Government expects the people's representatives to adopt—the first in which they have got to humble and humiliate themselves to the extent of waiting upon the executive officer possibly to be informed politely that he was sorry he could not comply with their request or the second one of resorting to the contrivance of raising the pay of the executive officer in order to simply punish him ? The certain creation of new factions by the digruntled members reduced to mere figureheads on one hand and by the watch dog set over them in the person of the executive officer on the other, and the consequential probability of perennial friction between the Government and the committee, as also the difficulty of determining the qualifications of the executive officer about which there is no mention in the Bill as it is presented before us to-day, which defect may afford yet another pretext to the local Government for depriving the committee of the right of appointing an executive officer, that is, if by a miracle the two-thirds majority was forthcoming in a particular committee, are also some of the potential features of this Bill. I am really surprised that the Government should have exhibited such a sheer lack of imagination in visualising these and other defects of the Bill. The Bill is thoroughly bad, ill-conceived, ill-considered and ill-executed. The only virtue that it can claim to have since acquired is that it is being piloted by an Honourable Minister of well-known nationalist tendencies and perhaps also that the Honourable Minister who sponsored it on the last occasion completely identified himself with it the other day. Therefore the House has now got to meet the combined might and main of two Honourable Ministers together with the most powerful teem spirit of the official benches. We are of course all very glad at the personal advancement of the Honourable Minister for Local self-Government, but we are afraid that what has been his gain—a personal gain—should threaten to be a national loss. He affirmed the other day that he was for Self-Government, that he was for *swaraj* and that he was for *purna swaraj*.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I never said *purna swaraj*. What I said was that I was for *swaraj* and also for *suraj*, that is Self-Government and good Government.

Malak Muhammad Din : Whatever that might be, the Honourable Minister was for full-fledged Self-Government. I do not think he will dispute that expression. Now we can all recall his somersault in defending certain policy of the Government which he had vehemently attacked before he had crossed the floor of the House.

Mr. President : The honourable member is now criticising the general policy of the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government. I would request him to speak to the motion before the House, that is, his own amendment, namely that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon and not taken into consideration at once.

Malak Muhammad Din : These are my reasons for moving for the circulation of the Bill. If the Honourable Minister persits in this policy we cannot of course entrust our Self-Government in his hands. If he is not prepared to accept our amendments, the House should of course vote for the circulation of the Bill. I may remind that mal-administration and mismanagement is common in all human managed institutions and the task of the reformer lies in effecting amelioration and not in killing the institutions themselves. Can any one claim that the departments directly administered by the Government are free from all abuses ? Take the Public Health Department.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member going to show that the Health Department should be abolished ?

Malak Muhammad Din : No, I am not going to say that.

Mr. President : The honourable member will please confine his remarks to the reasons why the Bill should be circulated for public opinion.

Malak Muhammad Din : I am coming to that. The Health Department takes precedence of all the other departments which go by the name of the beneficent departments. Even education can wait and must defer to the paramount claims of health. It was asserted, as it is even now being asserted in connection with the appointment of executive officers, that the District Medical Officers of Health could not work efficiently and independently under the district boards and that therefore they should be provincialised and should be brought under the direct disciplinary control of the Director of Public Health and this was agreed to. But, what has that ultra-beneficent department done since? You may take any district and you may visit any village or villages in it, nay, even the villages lying in close neighbourhood of the seat of Government and the head-quarters of the Director of Public Health himself, and you will find the pitch of efficiency of rural sanitary conditions since attained.

Mr. President : The honourable member should not discuss rural sanitations. Will he please speak to the motion before the House ?

Malak Muhammad Din : Very well. I would say that if the present municipal law containing as it does very far-reaching provisions, giving almost every conceivable kind of power to local Government and their officers can be shown to have failed, there may be some necessity for bringing in this

Bill. But, that has not been proved. Rather I should say that if the local bodies have in the province failed, the local Government should be charged with extreme laches and gross negligence of their satutory obligations. Under the present Act, section 14, sub-section (*e*) provides as also section 16 (*e*) that if a servant or officer of a committee is found to be undesirable he can be properly dealt with. He can be dismissed or suspended. Section 41 provides that if a servant or a member of a committee is interested in a contract he may be properly dealt with. Section 48 provides that if a member misappropriates or wastes the municipal funds he can be sued by the committee or the Secretary of State. Section 50 provides for the reduction of excess establishment. And not to mention all the multifarious powers reserved by and for the local Government and its officers, if the Government takes objection to any action of the committee it can suspend the committee under section 232. Lastly, section 238 provides that if a committee has proved itself utterly incompetent and recalcitrant it can be superseded. Now, Sir, it is a pertinent question to ask whether any of these powers have ever been exercised by the Government and if so, in regard to which of the municipalities they have exercised those powers and with what result. Unless and until you have exercised those powers and found them wanting you cannot ask for enhanced powers. It is not at all enough for the Commissioner of a division to sit in his official chair and write out scathing indictments against the actions of the municipal committee.

I think the Commissioners have very light work to do and if for nothing else but to justify the retention of their names in the Punjab Civil List or Government of India Civil List they might perform and they ought to perform their work in the municipal administration of the province more satisfactorily. The report to which the Honourable the Mover referred the other day, the report of the Commissioner, I think stands self-condemned. It is not enough for the Commissioner of a division to sit down in his cosy official chair and write out a scathing indictment against this or that municipality. The Bill is inopportune from another point of view. The present financial stringency has depleted the resources of all corporate bodies including the committees and they are at present engaged in retrenchment. Instead of encouraging them and impressing upon them the necessity of retrenchment the Government has set out to burden them with another heavy item of expenditure which might in the case of first class municipalities come up to Rs. 20,000 annually. Now as for the apology of this Bill—I call the Statement of Objects and Reasons an apology—one of the reasons—(*Interruptions*).

Mr. President : May I ask the honourable member to be brief? I think he has already taken more than half an hour.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Is there any time limit?

Mr. President : There is no time limit, yet the time of the Council has to be made the best use of.

Malak Muhammad Din : The Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government also reminded the House that—although not this Bill still an—identical Bill has already been circulated and it will not serve any useful purpose to circulate this Bill.

Mr. President : That argument related to the Bill as originally presented to the House. This Bill which is now before the House is the Bill as reported on by the select committee.

Malak Muhammad Din : I want to emphasise the necessity of circulation of the Bill. I say that the first circulation was no circulation at all in the first place, this identical Bill was not circulated and in the second place there have been several changes,—economical, social, political—and therefore it is very important that the Bill should be circulated and if I am not to comment on the previous circulation to which he has referred and on which he has relied how can I emphasise this point? After all what was the concensus of opinion on that occasion. Out of the 62 replies received, according to the official classification, 39 answers were for, 17 against the Bill and the remaining 6 had no opinions to offer. But I would respectfully submit that this classification is faulty and incorrect. Some 13 or 14 opinions included in the list claimed to have supported the Bill might well be allowed to go into the list of those who opposed the Bill, and this will entirely reverse the result, reducing the number of the supporters of the Bill to about 26 and increasing the number of the opposers to about 30———.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Why not rule out all in the first category and then add them to the other?

Malak Muhammad Din : If the House would like I would read out some of those opinions.

Mr. President : I am afraid I cannot allow that.

Malak Muhammad Din : Very well, Sir. I would also appeal to the Honourable the Mover of the Bill that he should not do anything at the present moment which is not conducive to the solution of the communal problem. I think both Lord Irwin and Mr. Gandhi will be very angry with him, (*A voice*: Mahatma Gandhi please). I beg your pardon. I ought to have said Mahatma Gandhi, though I did not mean any disrespect to him. I may say that the Muhammadan public is losing confidence in the Ministry.

Mr. President : Is a motion of censure upon the Minister under discussion?

Malak Muhammad Din : I am uttering all this in a friendly spirit. I have not known the Honourable Minister for a long time, but I have respect for him. There are others who have similar views, but they do not like to open their lips. I think I am doing him some service when I tell him that the atmosphere is charged with suspicious distrust, doubts and misgivings. He should dispel suspicions and instil and inspire confidence. I think he should be thankful to me for saying what other members feel. They have got much more material to say against the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government, but they would not open their mouths.

Mr. President : Personal remarks should be avoided. Impersonality is one of the fundamental principles of a Parliamentary debate.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I ask him whether he was present in the meeting of the standing committee on Local Self-Government, when it was decided to move this Bill and did he agree to it ?

Pir Akbar Ali : He might have changed his view.

Malak Muhammad Din : The Honourable Minister is putting a certain question to me——.

Mr. President : I do not wish the honourable member to answer that question.

Malak Muhammad Din : I am quite prepared.

Mr. President : If the honourable member does not proceed with his speech I am afraid I shall have to ask him to resume his seat.

(*On this the honourable member resumed his seat.*)

Mr. President : Motion under consideration amendment moved is—

"That the Bill be circulated for elicting opinion thereon by the 1st July 1931."

Mr. Owen Roberts [Nominated Non-official]: Sir, I desire to associate myself with this motion. I have already spoken at length on it and the changes in the Bill have been so numerous that I need say very little now. It has been urged that the Council is committed to the principle of the Bill. But the object of this motion is to find out whether the public agree to their so committing themsleves. It is a very important Bill indeed and until we get a further opinion from the public we cannot say that we are carrying public opinion with us in legislation of this character. Then, again, I would like to ask members what principle they are really committed to. Are they really committed to the creation of a post with an individual with large powers or are they committed to the principle of dispersing the powers of the committees into more manageable channels ? Personally I am committed to the latter of these two propositions and not to the creation of a single post with extensive powers and in the Minute of Dissent that we have placed on record, in paragraph 4 an alternative to the handing over of the powers to one individual has been presented, I think for the first time, and it is only fair that the public should be given an opportunity of reading the Bill as it has come from the select committee and of deciding what it prefers to do and whether the same end could not be achieved under the proposed system. If the supporters of the Bill insist that the principle of the Bill is the appointment of this officer then, Sir, I would remind them of what was said in this Council a few days ago by the honourable member from Hoshiarpur (Pandit Nanak Chand). When dealing with a similar matter in connection with the administration of the Department of Education, he used words which I took down at the time, " that the system employed was taking away the spirit of liberty and progress by removing from the people the enterprise in the management of their own affairs."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan) Urban] : So far as the policy underlying the Bill is concerned it has been decided that certain sort of Bill is required which can delegate to some extent the powers

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]
that are enjoyed by the municipal committees, but it is an open question whether by accepting this Bill we are creating a post or a person who would become unassailable in his job that he would become a sort of Czar of the Indian municipalities and whether this fact should not be circulated to the public. At the time when there is a demand for self-Government when all the country is crying for reforms and when it is demanded that there should be unalloyed democracy, is it right for this House to accept a Bill which gives power to one man which is not possessed even by the Ministers in this country. The Bill as it went to the select committee was accepted in principle with the hope that the select committee will evolve a system which is acceptable to the public, but it has come back in the form in which it went back. The position is whether as a result of this Bill the country is going to be ruled by a majority Government or a minority Government. This Bill as it has emerged from the select committee makes a law in this country that the minority can obstruct the majority and not only obstruct it but can rule it. This is a thing which has not been accepted either by this House or by anybody outside. If you look at the Bill you will find that one important section says that the Executive Officer can be appointed by two-thirds majority. Now, n this case I have come to know that in the city of Lahore to which it is proposed to enforce this Bill, there are 45 members, 15 of whom are nominated.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : That is wrong.

Malak Muhammad Din : There are 13 nominated members.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: This time 13 members are to be nominated, so it requires only 3 members to make the thing unworkable, the whole power will go into the hands of the Minister for Local Self-Government. Is it a wise policy ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : There are already 13 nominated members.

Malak Muhammad Din : There are 9 only.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : No, there are 13.

Mr. President : The Honourable Minister is right.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I think two more will be nominated.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : No, that is wrong.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I am glad to hear it. So out of 45, 13 are to be nominated by the Honourable Minister and out of these 32, half a dozen will be honorary magistrates, Rai Bahadurs and Khan Bahadurs who have their sympathy on the side of the Government. Now, will you allow a Bill to be passed which gives power not to the people but to the Government ? (*The Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government :* Is the honourable member discussing a particular provision of the Bill ?) I have a right to discuss the point and say why the Bill should be submitted to the public again. My honourable friend, the Minister, has considerably revised his views since his assumption of office, for I need only refer him to what he used to say when on those benches. My point, however, is that it is well nigh impossible for an elected majority to elect a member. We can be quite

sure that it cannot be done under the Bill as it comes from the select committee. I am not sure whether the opinions of municipalities were called for. I can at least say with certainty that the municipality of Amritsar was never informed about this Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Yes. It was.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : It was not consulted. Unless the Honourable Minister can show me proof of that I am not prepared to give credence to his statement. I am saying it on the authority of the Municipal Officer of Amritsar. Under the provisions of the Bill, the executive officer, the Czar of the municipality, cannot be displaced except by a two-thirds majority. Knowing as you do that this appointment is to be tinged with communal considerations, it will be impossible for any municipality to manage to get that majority. In a municipality, say of 45 members, 30 people must join before they could dispense with the officer and in municipalities as they are constituted at present, it will be impossible to command that strength. Is it right that the officer should be entrenched in such a safe position ? Is it not contrary to all canons of democracy to do so ? Even honourable members who are sitting here come ordinarily by a bare majority of votes, but this executive officer is placed in a safer position than they. Again in the select committee we had to repeatedly ask for a copy of the Bengal Legislation and it was three or four days before we were given copies of that. The Government are not fair in rushing this Bill through in this manner, especially when we find that many of its provisions are in direct opposition to a majority of members here. Since the Bill has emerged from the select committee, the Municipality of Amritsar in which there is a majority of Hindus has in a resolution opposed this Bill. On this very important question, which is going to be one of life and death so far as this Bill is concerned, I mean the appointment and removal of the executive officer, opinion is very strong and the Bill deserves to be circulated.

Mr. P. Marsden (Secretary, Transferred Departments) : There are apparently a few misapprehensions about this Bill which I would like to take this opportunity of correcting. Some of them are rather big misapprehensions on matters of principle and some on matters of detail. One that surprised me most was the misapprehension that the introduction of this Bill implies that the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government is anti-democratic or anti-self-Government. I cannot see why because his being a Minister has given him the chance in this great Council of seeing that the towns of this province are administered wisely and well, and because he wants to see beautiful streets and beautiful parks in the cities, and because he wants at once to set about it, this argument should be advanced. In the next place honourable members who have spoken seem to have a little ignorance of the world outside theirs, because they will find in the United States of America, which they would agree is a fairly well established democracy, there are over the whole country bodies corresponding to our municipalities and they have executive officers. (*An honourable member* : Are all of them elected ?) They are elected in many places.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Is the honourable member in order in discussing the principles of the Bill ?

Mr P. Marsden : It was attempted to prejudice the House against the Bill by mentioning certain extraneous matters and I feel that it is up to me to correct the misapprehensions. I was saying that in Germany which is one of the most enthusiastic countries in the matter of municipalities, you have executive officers with almost unlimited powers. (*An honourable member*: Elected ?) Appointed in many cases. And invariably there are provisions which make it extremely difficult to remove them and their tenure is for many, many years. I shall come to the question of removal and appointment later.

One point which the honourable member Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq raised, and which was urged, in their minute by two other honourable members, Mr. Owen Roberts and Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, was the appointment by a two-thirds majority. They pointed out that, instead of the provision for a two-thirds majority meaning that you would have a reliable majority to keep an executive officer in power or to prevent him being ousted from power, what is more likely is the creation of a small clique of one-third of the members *plus* one member who can prevent an executive officer from being ousted from power. Mr. Muhammad Sadiq did not mention any specific instance, but I will put before him that of his own municipality. There are, I think, 30 members on the Amritsar Municipality. What would, in that specific instance, be required to keep an executive officer from being dismissed is the support of 11 members, and I ask him whether in that municipality he would find eleven such wicked men. (*Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq*: There can be eleven such wicked men). I am quite sure that this was not possible in the days when I had the honour to be Secretary of Amritsar Municipality, when its destinies were swayed by those two grand old men Khan Bahadur Shaikh Ghulam Sadiq and Sir Gopal Das.

There was one little misapprehension in the mind of my honourable friend, Malak Muhammad Din. He was under the impression that it was impossible, if the Bill were passed in its present form, if he were to be walking on the corridor and a peon of the municipality did not make way for him, to persuade the municipality to dismiss such a peon. As a matter of fact, it still remains perfectly possible. Power is given to the executive officer to dismiss a lower grade servant of the committee but the municipal committee will also have the power to dismiss. (*Honourable Members*: Where, how ?) It is there, I assure honourable members. The power under the section has not been taken away from the committee, though it has been given to the executive officer. The power with regard to the servants of the committee remains with the committee.

Then the honourabke member, Mr. Owen Roberts, said that there was a new principle raised in paragraph 4 of the Minute of Dissent. As a matter of fact, there is very little by way of new principle in that paragraph.

Mr. Owen Roberts : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did not say it was a new principle. I said it was an alternative method of applying the same principle.

Mr. P. Marsden : As a matter of fact it is no new method either. It is a method which is already possible. Take the first part of it. You may entrust to the sub-committee suitable powers for making decisions under the Act. You already have very wide powers for delegating authority to sub-committees——.

Mr. President: The honourable member is probably referring to section 33 of the Municipal Act, which the Bill before the Council proposes to repeal.

Mr. P. Marsden: I have not finished my sentence. I was about to say that you have very wide powers under the Punjab Municipal Act of 1911 as amended in 1923. Such powers have not been utilised. There are a lot of powers under the existing Act which if they were utilised would, to some extent, effect the purposes which are intended by this Act. But they have not till now been utilised or at any rate have very seldom been utilised up to now. At the end of the paragraph a suggestion is made by the dissenting trio that there should be a Local Self-Government Board and this Board is to tour constantly and visit all the municipal committees, about a hundred of them. I would ask honourable members just to consider for a moment what an enormous expense it would involve. There is to be a peripatetic board of officers receiving travelling allowance and continually touring round. And it seems to me fairly obvious that if you establish a Board of that sort you would be interfering with the intiative of the committees just as much, as, if not more than, you would by this Bill. I would ask honourable members to consider whether they think it is within the realm of imagination that a Board of that sort can be touring round and round and as Mr. Owen Roberts suggests, shall I say, smooth over honourable members like Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq when they visit their committees. The whole idea suggested in that paragraph is quite inconceivable. With these words, I oppose the motion.

Pir Akbar Ali: I move—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: Question is—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by 1st July 1931.

Council divided: Ayes 29; Noes 49.

AYES,

Chaudhri Shah Muhammad.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.
Malak Muhammad Din.
Khan Haibat Khan, Daha.
Chaudhri Nazir Husain.
Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah.
Khawaja Muhammad Eusoof.
Chaudhri Fakir Husain Khan.
Mian Noor Ahmad Khan.
Chaudhri Riasat Ali.
Khan Sahib Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan.
Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani.
Rai Jagdev Khan, Kharal.
Maulvi Imam-ud-Din.
Raja Muhammad Sarfraz Ali Khan.
Mian Nurullah.
Shaikh Abdul Ghani.
Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Pir Akbar Ali.
Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Chaudhri Ram Sarup.
Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan.

NOES.

Mr. C. M. Ormerod.
Mr. S. K. Kirpalani.
Rai Bahadur Lala Rattan Chand.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave.
Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Janmeja Singh.
The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.
Mr. P. Marsden.
Sir George Anderson.
Mr. F. H. Puckle.
Mr. E. L. Crawford.
Mr. J. B. G. Smith.
Mr. J. W. Hearn.
The Honourable Sir Henry Craik.
The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.
Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.
Mr. B. M. Staig.
Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl Ilahi.
Mr. S. L. Sale.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri.
Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.
Mr. Sajan Kumar, Chowdhry.
Lala Nihal Chand, Aggarwal.
Thakur Pancham Chand.
Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.
Mr. P. Mukerji.
Lala Jyoti Prasad.
Lala Chetan Anand.
Lala Gopal Das.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Chaudhri Nathwa Singh.
Lala Bhagat Ram.
Chaudhri Bansi Lal.
Lala Ramji Dass.
Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Sardar Mohan Singh.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh.
Sardar Sampuran Singh.
Honorary Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sheo Narain Singh.
2nd Lieutenant Sardar Ram Singh.
Sardar Mohindar Singh.

Mr. President : Question is—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration."

Pir Akbar Ali : May I know whether I could speak opposing the motion. To say that the Bill be not taken into consideration is different from saying that it shall not be circulated. I think that I may be allowed to speak opposing the motion for consideration of the Bill.

Mr. President : It is already past 6 o'clock. The honourable member moved his closure motion at the moment of interruption of business. Had he not moved the motion at the last moment I would have only put to the House the only amendment of Malak Muhammad Din and allowed the honourable member to oppose the consideration of the Bill. But as he moved closure at the moment of interruption and the member in charge of the Bill is anxious to have it considered as soon as possible I think I must put the original motion to the vote of the House without any further debate thereon.

Question is—

"That the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration."

The Council divided : Ayes 49 ; Noes 28.

AYES.

Mr. C. M. Ormerod.
Mr. S. K. Kirpalani.
Rai Bahadur Lala Rattan Chand.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave.
Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Janmeja Singh.
The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.
Mr. P. Marsden.
Sir George Anderson.
Mr. F. H. Puckle.
Mr. E. L. Crawford.
Mr. J. B. G. Smith.
Mr. J. W. Hearn.
The Honourable Sir Henry Craik.
The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.
Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.
Mr. B. M. Staig.
Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl Ilahi.
Mr. S. L. Sale.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri.
Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit.
Mr. Sajan Kumar Chowdhry.
Lala Nihal Chand, Aggarwal.
Thakur Pancham Chand.
Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.
Mr. P. Mukerji.
Lala Jyoti Prasad.
Lala Chetan Anand.
Lala Gopal Das.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Chaudhri Nathwa Singh.
Lala Bhagat Ram.
Chaudhri Bansi Lal.
Lala Ramji Das.
Sardar Mohindar Singh.
Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Sardar Mohan Singh.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh.
Sardar Sampuran Singh.
Honorary Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sheo Narain Singh.
2nd-Lieutenant Sardar Ram Singh.

NOES.

Chaudhri Shah Muhammad.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.
Malak Muhammad Din.
Khan Haibat Khan, Daha.
Chaudhri Nazir Husain.
Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah.
Khawaja Muhammad Eusoof.
Chaudhri Fakir Husain Khan.
Mian Noor Ahmad Khan.
Chaudhri Riasat Ali.
Khan Sahib Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan.
Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani.
Rai Jagdev Khan, Kharal.
Maulvi Imam-ud-Din.
Raja Muhammad Sarfaraz Ali Khan.
Mian Nurullah.
Shaikh Abdul Ghani.
Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Pir Akbar Ali.
Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Chaudhri Ram Sarup.
Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Tuesday, the 24th March 1931.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 24th March 1931.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following members were sworn in :—

Townsend, Mr. C.A.H., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Financial Commissioner).

Calvert, Mr. H., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Financial Commissioner).

Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Dr. Khawaja (Director of Public Health.)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

KHIKHA RAJBAH IN THE LYALLPUR DISTRICT.

*473. **Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how much land was sold by auction on instalment system on Khikha Rajbah in the Lyallpur district in the years 1927-28 ;

(*b*) whether the Government is meeting with any difficulty in realising the instalments ;

(*c*) what amount is in arrears and what are the reasons for it ;

(*d*) whether any orders for confiscation of land have been issued against the defaulters ;

(*e*) if so, whether Government intend to extend any concessions to them : and, if so : what ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) 1,333 acres ;

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Rs. 46,638. Largely due to fall in prices and financial stringency.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

*474. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what supply of water was anticipated in the river at Ferozepore when the Sutlej Valley Project was sanctioned ;

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

(b) what has been the supply during periods of water scarcity as actually measured since construction commenced ;

(c) what steps, if any, Government proposes to take to supplement supplies during such periods to enable the Project to fulfil expectations ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) The supply for the Sutlej Valley Project anticipated in the *rabi* was 6,000 cusecs at Gandasinghwala with a percolation inflow down to Islam of 500 cusecs or 6,500 cusecs in all.

(b) The actually recorded discharges at Gandasinghwala from daily observations averaged for the *rabi* for each year are as follows :—

	Cusecs.
1919-20	6,016
1920-21	6,054
1921-22	8,277
1922-23	9,939
1923-24	7,507
1924-25	12,448
1925-26	6,249
1926-27	6,185
1927-28	7,054
1928-29	5,757
1929-30	6,630
11 years' average ..	7,465
10 years' average omitting 1924-25 abnormal year	6,967

The ten years' average is thus 967 cusecs or 16 per cent. greater than 6,000 cusecs assumed in the project.

(c) Does not arise.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : May I know what percentage of *haq* was promised to the cultivators in the Sutlej Valley Project ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I should like to have notice of that question.

BABU ASGHAR ALI.

***475. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the services of Babu Asghar Ali, temporary subordinate, Mangwana Sub-Division, Lower Jhelum Canal, were terminated in June 1930 ;

(b) what were the charges against him ;

(*c*) what was the explanation submitted by B. Asghar Ali in answer to the charges made against him ;

(*d*) what was the recommendation made by the Executive Engineer in forwarding the explanation of the subordinate to the Superintending Engineer ;

(*e*) whether any inquiry was made by the Superintending Engineer before passing orders on the case ;

(*f*) whether the subordinate appealed to the Superintending Engineer for a reconsideration of the case ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that the subordinate challenged open inquiry into the allegations made against him ;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the subordinate complained to the Superintending Engineer against the communal bias shown by his immediate superiors ; and, if so, with what result ;

(*j*) what statement was submitted by the subordinate in substantiation of the allegations he had made against the officials in the department ;

(*k*) whether any inquiry was made by the Superintending Engineer into the cases cited by the subordinate in his statement ; if so, with what result ;

(*l*) whether it is a fact that the subordinate appealed to the Chief Engineer, and, if so, the result of the appeal ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*), (*f*), (*g*), (*h*), (*j*) and (*k*) In October 1929, he was offered a post as temporary Sub-Overseer on the Lower Jhelum Canal in connection with the repairs to the damage to the Rasul Weir. Owing to the necessity for reduction of establishment on the completion of these works the Sub-Overseer was given one month's notice of termination of services by the Superintending Engineer in accordance with the terms of his agreement. Asghar Ali was selected for reduction as there were several other subordinates with higher qualifications and much better records already in service to choose from.

(*l*) Yes, and after the Chief Engineer had personally interviewed the subordinate, he was satisfied with the correctness of the Superintending Engineer's decision, and rejected the appeal.

DENTAL HOSPITAL, LAHORE.

***476. Mian Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Dental Hospital was started in Lahore ;

(*b*) how many patients have since been treated there ;

(*c*) whether the attendance of patients so far justifies the necessity for a Government Training College in Dentistry in this province ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) The Punjab Dental Hospital was started on the 1st April 1930.

(*b*) The total number of patients treated up to the 28th February 1931, was 10,250.

(*c*) The daily average attendance of patients is sufficient to meet the requirements of a Dental School. The financial situation so far has not permitted of the creation of such a school. But the question is under the consideration of Government.

BORDER MILITARY POLICE, DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

***477. Khwaja Muhammad Eusoof :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state whether the employees of the Border Military Police in the Dera Ghazi Khan district are wholetime salaried servants of Government ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : The reply is in the affirmative.

ENCROACHMENTS BY RAI SAHIB TEK CHAND, PRESIDENT, JANDIALA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, UPON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

***478. Lala Ramji Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that several complaints have been made to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, regarding the alleged encroachments by Rai Sahib Tek Chand, President, Jandiala Municipal Committee, upon public property ;

(*b*) whether any enquiry has been made into those allegations ; and if so, with what result ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that all the members of the Jandiala Municipal Committee are nominated ;

(*d*) whether Government intend to introduce the system of elections in the Municipal Committee ; and if so, when ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. It is not finished.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Orders for the introduction of an electoral system in the Municipality of Jandiala were issued by Government under Punjab Government Notification No. 4651, dated the 7th February 1930, and the electoral rules were published under Punjab Government Notification No. 23662, dated the 7th August 1930.

PANDIT JAGAT RAM OF HARIANA, DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.

***479. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Pandit Jagat Ram of Hariana, district Hoshiarpur, was sentenced to death on 13th September 1915 in the First Lahore Conspiracy Case, and whether his sentence was subsequently commuted to one of transportation for life ;

(b) whether the prisoner was confined in the Cellular Jail at Port Blair for a period of over 5 years and granted some special remission by the Government of India; if so, what was the period of remission;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that the said prisoner has further undergone a sentence of rigorous imprisonment in the Indian jails and has also earned a remission of over two years;

(d) what is the total sentence (including remissions) already undergone by this prisoner and the date of his release?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The period of special remission amounted to 2 years and one month.

(c) Uptil the 25th of June 1929, he had earned 1 year, 7 months and 29 days' remission. It is possible that he may by now have earned 2 years' remission.

(d) Seventeen years and 6 months. His case will be considered when he has completed 25 years' imprisonment with remissions.

PANDIT JAGAT RAM, PRISONER IN THE LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASE.

***480. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware that in February 1926, the case of Pandit Jagat Ram, a prisoner in the Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1915, was submitted to the Punjab Government from Jabbulpore by the then Inspector-General of Prisons in Central Provinces, Colonel F. A. Barker, with a special recommendation for his release; if so, what orders were passed on it;

(b) whether the Government is aware that in September 1926, after completion of 14 years his case was again submitted to the Punjab Government with good remarks by the Jail Superintendent, through the Central Provinces Government; if so, what orders were passed on this recommendation;

(c) whether the case was after the expiry of a further period of detention resubmitted to the Punjab Government with a recommendation for release by the Superintendent, Jail, at Jabbulpur in January 1928; if so, what orders were passed on this recommendation;

(d) whether the case of the said prisoner was resubmitted to the Punjab Government after he had served further sentence of one year in Punjab Jails; if so, with what results;

(e) whether the Government ordered that his case should be resubmitted after he had completed 20 years of imprisonment;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Government in April last issued an order that the previous order for the submission of the case of Pandit Jagat Ram after he completes 20 years' rigorous imprisonment has been cancelled, and that his case should only be submitted after he has completed 25 years' imprisonment; if so, the reasons for the revised orders?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) Yes. His case was ordered to be resubmitted on his completing 14 years' rigorous imprisonment including remissions.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) In February 1928, his case was again submitted to the Punjab Government who ordered that his case should be resubmitted for consideration after he had completed one year in a Punjab jail.

(*d*) Yes. On reconsideration the local Government decided that his case should be resubmitted on his completing 20 years' total imprisonment less remissions.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes. Government is not prepared to disclose the reasons for amending its previous orders.

CONVICTS SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE.

***481. Mr. Mukand Lal, Puri:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how the convicts who are sentenced to transportation for life dealt with, if they are not transported to Andamans, or are brought back from Andamans;

(*b*) what is the period of rigorous imprisonment which they are made to undergo in lieu of transportation for life;

(*c*) whether a period of two years in Indian Jails is considered equivalent to three years in Andamans in calculating the total imprisonment which a convict has to undergo?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) Prisoners who have been sentenced to transportation for life but declared medically unfit for deportation to the Andamans, are dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 726-A of the Punjab Jail Manual. The rolls of those prisoners who are subsequently repatriated from the Andamans on grounds of ill-health are sent up immediately they are received in a provincial jail for orders under section 402, Criminal Procedure Code. Those repatriated as incorrigibles are dealt with under paragraph 516-B (2) of the Punjab Jail Manual.

(*b*) That depends on the nature of the crime and the antecedents of the prisoner.

(*c*) Yes, as a general rule.

UPPER SUBORDINATE ESTABLISHMENT OF IRRIGATION BRANCH.

***482. Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that since the creation of the Upper Subordinate Establishment of the Irrigation Branch of the Punjab Public Works Department until 1921, members of the lower grade of the Establishment could rise by successive stages of promotion to the top-grade of Assistant Engineers;

(b) whether the Government is also aware that at the time of the reorganisation of the Punjab Public Works Department Services in 1921, prospects of promotion of Upper Subordinates to the rank of Assistant Engineer grade was re-affirmed ;

(c) whether the Government is aware that of the Upper Subordinate (Residue) of the Irrigation Branch of the Department not even one has been granted such promotion ever since 1921 ;

(d) if so, the reasons which have led the Government to withhold similar promotion from the Upper Subordinates mentioned in (c) above ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) From the date of the re-organisation of the Upper Subordinate Establishment in 1917 up to 1921, one Upper Subordinate was promoted to the rank of Assistant Engineer.

(b) After the re-organisation of 1920, it was possible for members of the Upper Subordinate (Residue) Service to be selected for promotion to the rank of Assistant Engineer in the Punjab Service of Engineers, but such promotion was expected to cease five years after the introduction of the latter service.

(c) Since 1920, 81 Upper Subordinates (Residue) have been appointed as Assistant Engineers.

(d) Does not arise.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh : How many have been so appointed since 1921, that was my question ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : 81 since 1920.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh : I did not ask for information since 1920 ; I said, since 1921.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I should like to have notice of that.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh : I did give notice for information since 1921 and not since 1920.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The reply is clear. After the year 1920 up to the present date, that is during the last 11 years, 81 subordinates have been appointed.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh : Those appointments may have been made between 1920-21, but I want information since 1921 and not within the year 1920.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The reply is there. If the honourable member wants to know how many were appointed during 1920 I shall be able to let him know, because probably those are included in these 81.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh : My question still remains unreplied.

UPPER SUBORDINATES (RESIDUE) OF IRRIGATION BRANCH.

***483. Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that many Upper Subordinates (Residue) of the Irrigation Branch of the Punjab Public Works Department have been several times called upon to hold charge of Sub-Divisions ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they have successfully held such charge ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that when they are reverted to sectional charge, they are in many cases replaced in such Sub-Divisions by Temporary Engineers, who are more highly paid than the former ;

(*d*) if the replies to (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above are in the affirmative, the reasons which have led the Government to abandon the economical policy of getting Sub-Divisional work done by senior Upper Subordinates ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In some cases only.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) It has never been the policy of Government to place Upper Subordinates (Residue) in charge of Sub-Divisions except in short leave vacancies. During recent years it has been necessary, due to the creation of a number of temporary posts on the Sutlej Valley Project in Bahawalpur and Bikaner, to retain considerable number of Upper Subordinates (Residue) in Sub-Divisional charge, but these posts are now being filled by men appointed by the States themselves and the regular policy of Government is being reverted to.

LALA HARI LAL, PLEADER, MULTAN.

***484. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Lala Hari Lal, Pleader, Multan, was arrested in July 1930 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he was made to march handcuffed from his house to the lock-up in the extreme heat of Multan at 2 P.M., through the heart of the city ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that he offered to pay tonga hire to take him to the lock-up and that it was refused ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that Lala Hari Lal was a pleader of 14 years' standing, and a member of District Board, Multan, at the time of his arrest, and whether he paid income-tax ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the lock-up, and subsequently the cell in the jail where he was confined, were extremely dingy, foul smelling and damp without beds or other furniture ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that he was asked by jail authorities to cook his food with his own hands or else to accept ordinary C class diet ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that he went without food for some days, as no arrangement was made for his diet according to the class in which he was placed ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) He was allowed to prepare his own food as he objected to taking it from the general jail kitchen.

(*g*) No.

FEES CHARGED BY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE CIVIL DISPENSARIES FOR OPERATIONS FROM INDOOR PATIENTS.

***485. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a medical officer in charge of a civil dispensary is entitled to charge fee for operations from indoor patients in the dispensary ;

(*b*) whether it makes any difference if the patient is a Government servant or not ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

FEES CHARGED BY ASSISTANT SURGEONS FOR GRANTING CERTIFICATES OF ILLNESS.

***486. Lala Chetan Anand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the fee which an assistant surgeon in charge of a Government dispensary can ordinarily charge from his patient for granting a certificate of illness to him ;

(*b*) whether it makes any difference if the patient is a Government servant or not ; if so, what ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) No fee has been fixed by Government, but ordinarily assistant surgeons charge a fee of Rs. 5, for issuing a certificate of illness.

(*b*) Certificates of illness are issued to Government servants free of charge, provided that their cases are referred through the head of their office or department.

GOVERNMENT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MOGA.

*487. **Mr. E. Maya Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that it is proposed to transfer the Government Girls' High School from Moga to some other place ;

(b) if so, to what place and on what grounds ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The whole question is under consideration so far.

BOOK ON VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION WRITTEN BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JHELUM.

*488. **Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum has published two books on village reconstruction ;

(b) if so, what is the agency through which he is selling it ;

(c) whether it is some bookseller or are the village officers and the subordinate officials of the Deputy Commissioner (such as lambardars, zaildars, magistrates, etc.) doing the necessary propaganda for the sale of these books ;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the Deputy Commissioner has made it compulsory for every villager who comes to deposit revenue or to take *taqavi* loan, to buy a book or two ; if so, whether this has been done with the permission of the Government ;

(e) how many copies of these books were sold in the Jhelum district before the Deputy Commissioner came to the district and how many copies, after he took over charge there ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The District Community Council, Jhelum, sells Mr. Brayne's and other books and newspapers on rural reconstruction. In addition the Oxford University Press, Messrs. Uttar Chand, Kapur, the Punjab Religious Book Depôt, the Pioneer Press, the Plant Institute Indore and many other firms, agencies and institutes all over India sell Mr. Brayne's books.

Subordinate officials of the Deputy Commissioner do not carry out propaganda for the sale of Mr. Brayne's books.

(d) No. The Deputy Commissioner never made it compulsory on any one to buy his books.

(e) Before Mr. Brayne came .. not known.

Since Mr. Brayne came .. 3,580 copies.

Outside the district some 32,500 copies have been sold of Mr. Brayne's Books.

Only one of the books written by Mr. Brayne belongs to him personally. One of the others belongs to the District Community Council and all profits of the other in all Editions and translations have been given to the work of rural reconstruction.

All royalties on sales of Mr. Brayne's books within Jhelum district were devoted to work in the Jhelum district by Mr. Brayne as soon as he entered the district.

LICENSES FOR REVOLVERS, PISTOLS AND GUNS.

*489. **Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) the numbers of licenses for revolvers, pistols and guns issued in the years 1929 and 1930 in Jhelum town and the Jhelum district, respectively ;

(b) how many of them have been renewed and issued in 1931 ;

(c) if the number is less, what are the reasons for not renewing the remaining licenses ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan :—

	Jhelum Town.		*Jhelum District.*	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
(a) Revolvers	45	41	206	193
Pistols	7	7	76	75
Guns	259	317	880	1,258

(b) Figures for 1931 are not yet available, as licenses are renewable at any time in the year.

(c) Does not arise.

LALA LAKHMI DAS, SAHUKAR OF PARI DARVESZA, DISTRICT JHELUM.

*490. **Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Lala Lakhmi Das, a *sahukar*, a *kursi-nashin* and a big landlord of Pari Darvesza, District Jhelum, was a license holder for pistol and revolver in the year 1929-30 ;

(b) whether his license was not renewed this year ;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that this man has been murdered by the dacoits only a few days after the lapse of the license ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) The revolver license of Lala Lakhmi Das lapsed on 31st December 1929.

(b) His license was not renewed.

(c) No. He was murdered on 13th February 1931, 13½ months after the lapse of his license.

OFFICER INCHARGE OF THE GREY CANALS IN THE FEROZEPORE DISTRICT.

***491. Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) the technical qualifications of the officer incharge of the Grey Canals in the Ferozepore district ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this officer does not know English and employs a private man to do his official work for him in English ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) He has passed the Engineering Class examination of the Punjab University held in 1905.

(*b*) No.

SUPERINTENDENT, GREY CANALS.

***492. Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present pay of the Superintendent, Grey Canals, in the Ferozepore district, and also his pay on 1st February 1928 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Financial Commissioner, Mr. King, while fixing the pay of the present incumbent of the post of Superintendent, Grey Canals, wrote that he did not consider him to be worth more than Rs. 180 per mensem ;

(*c*) what were the circumstances which justified a great increase in his pay within about a year of the above order of the Financial Commissioner, Punjab ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The present pay of the Superintendent, Grey Canals, is Rs. 320 per mensem ; and he was drawing Rs. 180 per mensem on 1st February 1928.

(*b*) Government is not prepared to disclose the opinion of officers recorded by them on office files.

(*c*) The responsibility attached to the post and the distinct improvement in his work.

SUPERINTENDENT OF GREY CANALS.

***493. Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether at the time of the appointment of the present Superintendent of Grey Canals in the Ferozepore district, the question of appointing a qualified Engineer on that pay was considered ;

(*b*) if not, why ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Does not arise.

English Clerk (Muhammad Husain) employed in the Grey Canals Office.

***494. Mr. Nanak Chand, Pandit :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the English Clerk (Muhammad Husain) employed in the Grey Canals office is cousin of the present Superintendent ;

(*b*) whether the Government is also aware that he knows neither English nor typing ;

(*c*) if so, what action Government intend to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Muhammad Husain knows English, but not typing.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Pirthi Singh of Ambala district.

***495. Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Pirthi Singh of Ambala district was tried and sentenced in the 1st Lahore Conspiracy Case in 1914-15 along with Bhai Parma Nand, the leader of the party ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Bhai Parma Nand has been released by the Government several years ago ;

(*c*) where is Pirthi Singh confined at present ;

(*d*) whether the Government is prepared to release him and, if so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) He is not confined at present.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Prisoners and Paper Manufacture.

***496. Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether any of the prisoners, who were employed during the period of their imprisonment on the manufacture of paper, have on their release from jail started the industry of manufacturing paper ;

(*b*) whether it is the intention of Government to employ prisoners only on those industries the art of which may be useful to them after their release ;

(*c*) if the reply to part (*a*) be in the negative whether Government intend to discontinue the manufacture of paper in the jails and to employ the prisoners on some other remunerative industry ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Government has no information on this point.

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(*b*) As far as possible jail industries must, however, be suitable for the employment of large numbers, and contain grades or stages which involve a varying degree of labour, and this necessity scarcely limits choice.

(*c*) Government does not propose to discontinue the manufacture of paper in the jails.

NOMINATED ELEMENT OF THE LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

***497. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) were pleased to direct that the provisions of Section 12 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, requiring that not more than one-fourth of the members of a municipal committee shall be nominated, shall not apply to the Municipal Committee of Lahore;

(*b*) whether he is also aware that the Municipal Committee of Lahore as at present constituted contains a nominated element of more than one-fourth of its total strength;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) were pleased to revise the constitution of the Municipal Committee, Lahore, with effect from the next general election so as to provide for only 9 seats out of 45 to be filled by nomination;

(*d*) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative whether the Punjab Government intends to hold the next election according to the above decision?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The answer to part (*d*) is in the negative. The reasons for the decision are as follows :—

In 1927 owing to agitation against the then existing constitution of the Lahore Municipal Committee the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) agreed to create four new seats, two of which went to the Hindus and two to the Muslims. As it was not convenient to reconstitute the wards at that time all these seats were filled by nomination, the number of nominated seats being thus raised from 9 to 13. In their letter No. 27983 L. S.-G., dated the 4th of November 1927, addressed to the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) explained that it had been decided to revise the constitution of the Municipal Committee of Lahore with effect from the next general election so as to provide for the election of 19 Muslims, 13 Hindus, 1 Christian Jew or Parsi, 2 Sikhs, 1 European British and for 9 seats to be filled by appointment. The Deputy Commissioner was then asked to

submit through the Commissioner for the approval of Government a draft notification under section 240 of the Punjab Municipal Act to provide for revised election wards. As the committee whom the Deputy Commissioner asked to submit proposals, took no action, Mr. Hearne, the Secretary, was asked to make proposals for the revision of the wards, and these were (after a revision of his first draft made at the Commissioner's suggestion) ready by January 1929. These proposed rules were notified by Government in preliminary notification No. 9224 of March 17th, 1930. The municipal committee appointed a sub-committee to consider these proposals and make objections and an advance copy of its report was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore on the 21st of May 1930. As this draft had not been approved by the general committee, the municipal committee was asked by the Deputy Commmissioner to have it considered at a general meeting, the time for next election being meanwhile extended to February 1931 by Government, that there might be time for a decision on the objections received from the committee and from individuals.

Then the committee by its resolution No. 90, dated the 24th of July 1930 revised the sub-committee's draft and submitted it to the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore on the 5th of August 1930. As objections to the committee's proposals also were raised, Government in October 1930 appointed Mr. D. Falshaw, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner to go into the question. Mr. Falshaw revised the proposals and Government received his report on January 13th, 1931. These proposals were being scrutinised when it became apparent that there were again strong objections to them ; and republication and a fresh invitation of objections were obviously necessary as they were entirely different from those notified in March 1930. The publication of these proposals the reception and disposal of objections and the publication of the final proposals was bound to take several months. In view of these difficulties and the widespread dissatisfaction with the present municipal administration of Lahore it was considered inadvisable to postpone the elections any further as they were already overdue by six months. The notification of March 17th, 1930 was therefore cancelled and orders were issued to the local authorities to start election proceedings.

Government recognizes the importance of extending the elected element and restricting nominations, but in the present circumstances the course adopted was considered the best. The wards will be reconstituted as early as possible and a definite assurance is given that the next elections will be held on the basis of revised wards. Had it been expedient and legally possible the Government would have been willing to shorten the three years period of the next committee and hold a new election on revised wards but such a course is not allowed by rules and would be obviously inexpedient.

CENSUS.

***498. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government has received any complaints in regard to the making of wrong entries in the census registers ;

(*b*) if so, what is the number and nature of such complaints ;

(*c*) what action the Government has taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The main burden of the complaints, of which there were many, were :—

(*i*) that certain houses in towns were left unenumerated on the final census night ;

(*ii*) that in other houses the number of occupants was fictitiously increased ;

(*iii*) that some enumerators entered the religion of Sikhs as Hindus and *vice versa* ; and

(*iv*) that many Ad-dharmis were terrorised into returning their religion as Sikh, or were recorded as Sikh or Hindu in the column of religion by the enumerators.

(*c*) Enquiries are being made through the district authorities.

BHAKRA DAM PROJECT.

***499. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether the two engineers appointed to enquire into the effect of the Bhakra Dam withdrawals of water from the river Sutlej upon the water surface levels of the Indus have submitted their report ; if so, whether the Government will place a copy of the report on the table of the House ;

(*b*) whether the work of rectangular survey of the tract to be irrigated by the Bhakra Dam project has been started during the current year by the Government of India, Survey Department, if so, when is this work expected to be completed ;

(*c*) what action has been taken to carry into effect the resolution unanimously passed in the Punjab Legislative Council about the said project on 28th February 1929 ;

(*d*) whether the work of the preparation of the project for submission to the Government of India and Secretary of State for sanction has been taken in hand and, if so, by what date is it expected to be completed ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The reply to this has already been given in answer to starred Council question[1] No. 112.

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[1]Page 223 *ante*.

(*b*) and (*c*) The reply will be found in answer to parts (*a*) and (*b*) of starred Council question[1] No. 113.

(*d*) The preliminaries in connection with the preparation of the project have been taken in hand. The matter is a most complex one and it will be some time before the project will be ready for submission.

RAJA FAZAL MUHAMMAD, P. E. S.

***500. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Raja Fazal Muhammad, P. E. S., has been given selection grade superseding about twenty officers above him ;

(*b*) the reasons for superseding so many officers ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member is referred to the answer given to part (*b*) of starred Council question[2] No. 324 and to the answer to starred Council question[3] No. 378 given on the 19th March, 1931.

PROMOTION TO THE SELECTION GRADE OF P. E. S.

***501. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government has issued a circular in which certain principles are laid down for regulating promotion to the selection grade of P. E. S. and if so, whether Government will lay a copy of that circular on the table ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that according to the circular above referred to, the length of service under Government whether in S. E. S. or P. E. S. will be one of the main considerations for promotion to selection grade ;

(*c*) if so, whether Government proposes to apply the same principle to promotions in other services also ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member is referred to the answer to starred Council question[4] No. 379 given on the 19th March, 1931.

MUHARRIR IN THE COURT OF TAHSILDAR, KAITHAL, DISTRICT KARNAL.

***502. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that a Muharrir in the court of Tahsildar, Kaithal, district Karnal, embezzled Rs. 160 out of the fine deposited last year in two criminal cases ;

[1]Pages 223-24 *ante*.
[2]Page 548 *ante*.
[3]Page 574 *ante*.
[4]Page 574 *ante*.

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(*b*) whether the Government is also aware that the matter came to light when warrants for recovery of fine were received with the report that the amount was paid long ago and receipts of the Muharrir were produced ;

(*c*) whether the amount has been received from the Muharrir ; if so, how long after it was actually realised by him ;

(*d*) what punishment was given to the official concerned and what steps have been taken to stop recurrence of such an embezzlement in future ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the said Muharrir instead of being punished has been transferred to a post of greater responsibility and pay ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The matter is under investigation by the local officers.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes, after seven or eight months.

(*d*) The matter is under investigation by the local officers.

(*e*) The Muharrir has been transferred to another post on the same pay, the question of who should be punished and how is, as explained in the answer to part (*a*), still under investigation.

SELLING OF LAND BY THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, REWARI.

***503. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Municipal Committee, Rewari, is selling by auction a piece of land called Bawli and one Madan Lal, son of Ram Chandra, Mahajan, of Rewari, gave the highest bid of Rs. 26,250.

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the same bidder agreed to raise the amount to Rs. 40,000 if his conditions were agreed ;

(*c*) whether the land has been sold to him ;

(*d*) if not, what are the reasons of the committee for not doing so ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

SANSKRIT AND ARABIC TEACHERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, HISSAR.

***504. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that in the District Board, Hissar, in the proposed Budget for 1931-32 for Education, it has been proposed to do away with all the Sanskrit and Arabic teachers ;

(b) what is the total number of Sanskrit and Arabic teachers respectively thus affected ;

(c) whether Government is aware that this is likely to retard the progress of study of the classical languages in the Hissar district ;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avert this result ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (a) Yes.

(b) Ten Sanskrit and three Arabic teachers.

(c) Yes, to the extent involved by the reduction but it should be remembered that only a few students take up these subjects and the expenditure seems out of proportion to the results achieved *e.g.*, in 1930, only 31 boys passed in Arabic and Sanskrit in the whole district and of these only two are reported to have joined high schools where they could continue their studies of these subjects.

(d) Government are not yet aware of any decision arrived at by the district board in whose discretion the matter rests at present.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTED IN THE HISSAR DISTRICT.

***505. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) the names of places in the Hissar district where punitive police was posted during the year 1930 ;

(b) the reasons why punitive police was posted ;

(c) the total amount that the inhabitants of such places have been called upon to pay ;

(d) whether Government is prepared to withdraw such police in view of the changed circumstances ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Chutala and Ganga villages.

(b) The disturbed condition of these areas due to the criminal activities of some of the inhabitants.

(c) Rs. 5,719-12-0 from the inhabitants of each of the villages.

(d) No. The circumstances have not changed.

PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR POLITICAL AND OTHER OFFENCES IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

***506. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) the total number of persons prosecuted for political and other offences connected with the civil disobedience movement in Hissar district since March 1930 ;

(b) the total number of persons convicted ;

(c) the total amount of fine inflicted on the accused ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) 276 persons were prosecuted for civil disobedience offences in the Hissar district between March 1st, 1930, and February 28th, 1931 ;

(*b*) 119 persons were convicted during the period in question ;

(*c*) The fine inflicted on the accused during the period in question amounted to Rs. 3,422.

PROSECUTIONS FOR BREACHES OF SALT LAW.

***507. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether any prosecutions for breaches of Salt Law were launched in any district other than Hissar in the Punjab ;

(*b*) the names of the persons prosecuted and convicted under the Salt Act in Hissar district ;

(*c*) whether other persons had also taken part in committing such breaches ;

(*d*) reasons why only these persons were singled out for such prosecutions in the whole of the Punjab ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No.

(*b*) (1) Pandit Neki Ram, son of Har Parshad, Brahmin, of Bhiwani, Hissar district, was sentenced on two counts under the Salt Act to 6 months' simple imprisonment and Rs. 100 fine on each count on 2nd May 1930.

(2) Ganpat, son of Bakhtawar Mal, Mahajan, of Sirsa, was sentenced on three counts under the Salt Act to 3 months' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 50 fine on each count on 3rd May 1930.

(*c*) District Magistrates have power to institute prosecutions under the Salt Act. No other District Magistrate so far as Government is aware, found it necessary to institute such prosecutions.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN HISSAR JAIL.

***508. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that political prisoners in Hissar Jail were given grinding of corn as labour ;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative the total number of prisoners who were given such form of labour ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that in very few other jails, if any, at all, such labour was given ;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) be in the affirmative, the reasons for inflicting this punishment on prisoners mentioned in part (*a*) ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes, as flour was badly needed at the time for jail dietary.

(*b*) 36, of whom 27 were given only half task.

(*c*) This labour was given in other jails, when necessary.

(*d*) Grinding is ordinary hard labour, not a punishment.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

***509. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) the total number of political prisoners in Hissar district who were recommended for being placed in A and B class respectively by the trying Magistrates ;

(*b*) in how many cases the recommendations were not accepted ;

(*c*) whether an enquiry was ordered before they were directed to be treated as ordinary prisoners ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : .—

	"A" Class.	"B" Class.
(*a*)	3	15
(*b*)	1	13

(*c*) Yes.

PRESIDENT, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, HANSI.

***510. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether the enquiry into the conduct of the President, Municipal Committee, Hansi, had been completed by the Revenue Assistant, Hissar and report submitted to higher officers some months ago ;

(*b*) what action, if any, has been taken on that report, by the Government ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The report made by the Revenue Assistant has not yet been received by Government.

UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS OF JHARSA, DISTRICT GURGAON.

***511. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that between 12th and 17th April 1930, the Hindus of Jharsa, Gurgaon district, challaned under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, were taken out from the court judicial lock-up (*a*) to the District Board Office, (*b*) to the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow, for the purpose of coercing them to the consent of the opening of the slaughter-house ;

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(b) whether it is a fact that on 17th April 1930, Sayed Zaman Khan, Treasury Officer and Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Gurgaon, passed an order disallowing private food from outside to these under-trials in order to further coerce them to agree to the opening of the slaughter-house ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) No.

(b) No.

JHARSA SLAUGHTER HOUSE ENQUIRY.

***512. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the important witnesses were examined by the Inquiry Officer appointed to enquire into the Jharsa slaughter-house affair at Gurgaon, in camera on the 17th April 1930 ;

(b) whether the Government is aware that their names were not disclosed to the Hindus of Jharsa, so that questions might be suggested to the Inquiry Officer ;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that even the gentleman representing the Hindus was not allowed to attend the inquiry during their examination ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the fact of the inquiry had not been notified to the Hindus at least before then ;

(e) whether the Government is aware that these witnesses did not themselves express any desire to be examined in camera ;

(f) if so, whether Government took all these facts into consideration before coming to a decision on the Inquiry Officer's report ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Three Government officials and one European missionary were examined on 17th April, 1930.

(b) and (c) Yes. Neither party was informed of the proceedings of 17th April.

(d) A notice was issued on 17th April that the enquiry would take place on the 18th of April 1930 and subsequent days.

(e) No.

(f) Yes.

HINDU DEPUTATION TO THE COMMISSIONER, AMBALA DIVISION.

***513. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Chief Secretary please state whether the Government is aware of the fact :—

(a) that a Hindu deputation headed by Pandit Dev Rattan Sharma, General Secretary, Hindu Mahasabha, waited upon the Commissioner, Ambala division, at Gurgaon, on the 30th April 1930 ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that the gentlemen comprising the deputation made various complaints against the district officials ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that the Commissioner treated them very badly, in fact refused to hear them ;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware that the Commissioner told them that they had exposed themselves to civil and criminal proceedings by making these allegations ;

(*e*) whether the Government is also aware that the Commissioner told the deputationists that he could never believe the charges to be true against the Deputy Commissioner ;

(*f*) whether the Government is further aware that the Commissioner told the deputationists "You wanted Indianisation. Here was Indianisation. England can no longer spare its best brains for you ;"

(*g*) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner refused to institute any inquiry into the allegations made by the deputation ;

(*h*) whether the Government is aware that the Commissioner's hint about civil and criminal liability gave an encouragement to the district officials to prosecute and otherwise harass the Hindus if they could ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : From a perusal of the communications from the Commissioner, Ambala, regarding the communal tension last spring at Gurgaon, Government has been unable to trace any corroboration of the allegations made in his question by the honourable member.

RESOLUTION.

RE REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah [Lahore, Muhammadan (Rural)]: Sir, I beg to move that—

> "This Council recommends to the Government that a general remission of 25 per cent. land revenue be granted on all the *rabi* crops of 1931."

Sir, it is my privilege again to-day to bring this very important question before the House. As the members of this honourable House would remember, in the last session I brought a resolution before the House for remission in the *kharif* crop, and I must thank the Government for the very considerate action that they took on that. However, I will deal with that system of remission later on in my speech. No doubt some of us must be tired of listening always to some sort of relief demand coming from this part of the House for zamindars either in respect of land revenue, *abiana*, *taqavi* or sometime other cesses. This is no doubt unfortunate, but the facts are such that we cannot help otherwise, because the system of land revenue which I cannot deal with at the present moment fully is very much responsible for that defect. I believe the honourable members of this House know that the system that prevails in this country is unheard of anywhere else in the world, as this system of getting tax on land is based on such inequitable and unjust grounds that we are always obliged to raise our voice against it.

[K. B. Sardar Habib Ullah.]

Perhaps this is not the time to deal fully with this question. But I only hope that as soon as the new constitution comes into force and a fair representation is given to the agriculturists, the first thing that the new assembly or the new House should do would be to revise and change the present system of land revenue. Coming to the resolution, Sir, I would be excused for not giving details of income and expenditure because it would be covering the same ground over again that I did in my previous resolution in the last session, and I understand that there are many members of this House who will deal with that question later on. I will just pass a few general remarks before I give way to other members. The fact remains that the income cannot bear the expenses of to-day, and to prove — if there is any necessity, because I am told that our Honourable Financial Commissioner does not admit this fact—that the income cannot bear the expenses of to-day, I will quote for his information a paragraph that has come from a very high authority, Mr. Vidyanathan, who is the statistician in the Council of Agricultural Research. In his lecture at Aligarh University the other day he said with regard to agricultural age :

> " If I should be asked to mention the trend of our times, the spirit of this age, the moving force of the country, the influence which should direct all our energies for the development of all sciences and the uplift of humanity, I would mention without affecting the susceptibilities of all those engaged in research, that this age is an age of agriculture an age where the Mother Earth and her potentialities are to be unravelled which had not been done so far—an agricultural age which is to bring an international consciousness and an international unity of interdependence of man in whatever clime and in whatever region he might be placed. As an evidence of this upheavel we have before us the serious economic depression following, I may call, an acute argicultural crisis, that is prevailing everywhere, prevailing not only in India but throughout the world. At no other times are this mutual dependence and mutual understanding between country and country, between clime and clime, between East and West more necessary than now."

These are the words that should be marked :

> " For indeed the productive capacity has increased in every country more than what the country itself might consume and adequately provide for the increase in population, or supply the world markets ; but the prices of all agricultural produce are far below the cost of production, and there is the Soviet Russia to supply and dump their grains on foreign markets at prices far below parity and at prices far below what the cheapest economic labour could earn."

This very important fact came to my notice the other day, and I thought I would place it before the House for its information. As this House is aware some measures have recently been adopted by the Government of India in connection with the wheat of this country, and it is with satisfaction that we note that an Import Duty Bill has been brought in the Assembly, but again I must remind the honourable House that it might not affect the prices for sometime to come, for one reason that there is a certain loophole in that Bill which should be protested vehemently and that is, that the Bill provides that contracts contracted before the end of March will be allowed to be continued. This means that mills and some foreign countries that have contracted, and as most of the members know it is not very difficult to prove that some big contracts have always been put forward with mills and with foreign countries, will not be affected by this Bill. So I think that it is a very great loophole, and the benefit that the wheat of this country is going to get from the introduction of this Bill will not be great and effective

for some time to come. Then again it is the general opinion that unless the Government of India is to do something in connection with exchange problem it is very difficult to raise prices to any appreciable extent. No doubt the import duty to some extent might affect the wheat of this country by raising prices to, say, 5 or 6 annas per maund, but this I would submit is not enough to relieve the distress that is prevailing in the country at the present moment. Sir, why I ask particularly a general remission is that some members of my party last time thought that it was rather unwise on our part to ask the Government to give remissions on broad basis by reducing *abiana* and giving particular thought to particular areas, that is, irrigated area, and that is why I am asking this time for a general remission. What happened last time was that when the Government gave effect to that resolution, no doubt it cost Government a considerable amount of money, about 37 lakhs, but the actual relief felt by the masses was not in any way appreciable. What happened was, a certain formula was invented by, I do not know whom, that if the land revenue *plus abiana* exceeds a certain amount, say, Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 according to the different crops, then 25 per cent. reduction will be allowed. This created a sort of heart-burning amongst the classes that did not get canal water.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the honourable member please address a little louder ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : And the effect was that people owning land in *barani* and *chahi* areas were not relieved even to the smallest extent, and that is why I am putting forward this time the question not of *abiana* but of land revenue alone. I would like the Government to take note of this fact that it should be general as regards the irrigated as well as non-irrigated lands either *chahi* or *barani*.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Land revenue alone ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : Yes, land revenue alone. I need hardly say at this time anything more because some of my friends that are coming from *barani ilaqas*, I am sure, will have to say a lot on the distress that is prevailing there, but whatever little I know of these districts—I happened to visit a district and found village after village absolutely empty, not a soul worth the name was there in them. They had all gone to do some sort of labour. In Hissar district I can say with authority that in some places excepting old women and children and old men no one was left behind.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Where was it ?

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : In Hissar and may be in other *barani ilaqas* also. Now it will be a very pertinent question to ask on behalf of Government, if this remission is allowed, how is this money to be raised, or where is this money to come from ? No doubt if 25 per cent. allowance or relief is given it will cost a considerable amount of money. I am quite aware of this fact, but at the same time I will submit very humbly that retrenchment committee which the Government is appointing, I am sure, will be able to do a lot to help them in that matter. Moreover, Sir, such distress is not anything new with regard to the Punjab, it is felt all over India and in other countries. Wherever such big calamities have occurred

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Governments have raised special loans for such periods, Governments have raised special loans to meet the very just demands of zamindars, and our Government should not shrink from doing so. I will say in conclusion just a word or two addressing our Honourable Ministers who unfortunately are not present at the present moment in the House. It came to my notice only this morning that the Minister for Agriculture addressed a letter to the press. That is rather interesting, and I may be allowed to read it. It is published in the *Tribune* of to-day by the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh. He says:

> "I am surprised to read a report of the meeting of Peasants and Worksrs' Party which seems to have imagined that I gave any advice regarding an increase in land revenue. I wish to contradict it at once. In the first place I am not in charge of the Land Revenue Department, and, in the second place, for the last twenty years, I have without variation pleaded that land revenue should conform to modern canons of taxation. My opinion on the subject is recorded in my minute of dissent, which I attached to the Taxation Enquiry Committee's Report, and even when the Land Revenue Bill in the Punjab Legislative Council was under discussion, I stood for a reduction in the rate of assessment to 25 per cent. Not more than a week ago writing about Lord Hardinge in the *Pioneer* I incidentally mentioned my placing the land revenue problem before him and the attention he gave to it.
>
> "I therefore wish to emphatically deny that I have ever given any advice that the land revenue should be increased."

I am sure that he never gave that advice, and it was very wrong on some one's part to say that, but at the same time I should like to see all the Ministers generally to stress this point on the Government because they are more in touch with the public opinion outside than most of the Government members present here, and they can really put the case of the public before the Government. When there is distress in the country, some sort of relief is necessary. To my mind this 25 per cent. is not very much, because if substantial relief is not forthcoming I am afraid there will be a lot of trouble and the Government must be prepared for that. Not only will the people resent giving their dues, but they will not be able to pay. I should bear in mind that they have paid uptill now with very great difficulty, but in future I am afraid they will not be able to do so. With these words I put this resolution before the House (*hear, hear*).

Mr. President :

> "This Council recommends to the Government that a general remission of 25 per cent. on land revenue be granted on all the *rabi* crops of 1931.

Mian Nurullah : I have got an amendment to the resolution suggesting a remission of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

Mr. President : It appears that the honourable member's amendment goes beyond the scope of the original resolution.

Mian Nurullah : No. It does not. The principle is a reduction of the land revenue, and the exact percentage is only a matter of detail.

Mr. President : Will the reduction of 50 or 100 per cent. be within the scope of the original resolution ?

Mian Nurullah : So long as the principle involved, namely, reduction of land revenue, is the same they will not probably be out of order, provided the member is able to advance weighty arguments in support of the percentage of reduction he suggests.

Mr. President : Will the honourable member please say whether the reduction of cent. per cent. will be within the scope of the original motion ?

Mian Nurullah : Perhaps it would not be in order to suggest such a reduction, for that will be different from the principle of reduction involved in the original motion.

Mr. President : The member from Gujranwala has given notice of an identical amendment. What has he to say as to its scope ?

Chaudhri Riasat Ali : I would only repeat what has been said by my honourable friend, Mian Nurullah.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is obvious that this amendment goes beyond the scope of the original resolution. After all 33⅓ per cent. is greater than 25 per cent. No one can deny that. Therefore the amendment goes beyond the scope of the resolution, and is out of order.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : In coming to some sort of decision on this very important point the first thing that we should consider is as to the real meaning of the word 'scope.' In my humble judgment the word means that the amendment should not go beyond the principle underlying the resolution. And the principle underlying this resolution is that in view of the special circumstances obtaining in the country some sort of remission is necessary. As to what exactly the remission should be does not affect the scope of the resolution.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I should like to say a few words. If the interpretation that is sought to be placed on the rule that an amendment shall not go beyond the scope of the original resolution in regard to this particular amendment is sound, then every amendment that is brought will be out of order. After all, the object of an amendment is to effect some sort of variation. Here the variation sought is in respect of the quantum of reduction. The quantum of reduction is a thing that would depend upon the circumstances prevailing. The meaning of an amendment being within the scope of a resolution is that the amendment should not be at variance with the principle of the resolution or at variance with the general spirit of the resolution. The quantum of reduction in this case should not be regarded as anything affecting the scope of the resolution.

Mr. President : It would appear that the essential elements of the resolution are : (1) reduction (2), land revenue and (3) 25 per cent. Therefore an amendment which goes beyond the scope of any of these three elements is beyond the original resolution.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: No amendment which suggests any variation whatsoever will then be in order. If you accept the quantum of reduction as one of the determining factors in relation to the scope of a resolution, then any variance from the original limit will mean a transgression of the scope. But after all an amendment is nothing but an attempt to secure some sort of variation of the original motion.

Mr. President : I think an amendment proposing (*a*) enhancement instead of reduction of land revenue, or (*b*) reduction of income-tax instead of land revenue or (*c*) reduction of 90 or 100 per cent. instead of 25 per cent. clearly goes beyond the scope of the original resolution.

Mian Nurullah : There is a difference between the intention and the scope of a resolution. Supposing I want to say that the reduction shall be *minus* 2 per cent., it would change the intention of the resolution. But in this case the intention of the amendment as well as of the original resolution is a reduction.

Mr. President : The point is not free from difficulty, and no general rule can be laid down for deciding all such cases. I think each case must be decided on its own facts.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I was going to submit that, as was pointed out by one honourable member when we are discussing what the scope of a particular resolution before the House is, surely the question of intention must come in some time. Here by reading the amendment we can safely conclude that if it was in the mind of the honourable member proposing it to demand a remission of a fraction of the land revenue, not a reduction by half or its wholesale abolition, I would submit that he would be within the four corners of the rule regarding amendments. For instance, an honourable member proposes 23 per cent. remission by way of amendment to this resolution which puts it at 25 per cent., he would be in order. But if he proposes that land revenue be remitted by half I would find it difficult to say that the amendment would be admissible. There is not much difference between one-fourth and one-third. After all what we demand is only a fraction of land revenue to be remitted, be it one-fourth or one-third. With due deference, the amendment before us does not seem to go beyond the scope of the resolution. If it were to suggest a remission by 50 per cent., or 80 or 90 per cent., I would have no hesitation in saying that it will not be within the scope of the resolution, but I should think 33⅓ per cent. comes within the scope of the reduction demanded in the original resolution.

Mr. President : Will a reduction of 99 or 100 per cent. also fall within the scope of the resolution ?

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : No, it will not.

Mr. President : Where will the honourable member draw the line ?

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : The resolution before us demands one-fourth reduction. A reduction by 15 per cent., 20 per cent. or even by one-third would be within its scope. After all, such a reduction only increases or decreases the actual percentage in some small way and does not materially affect the resolution.

Mr. President : The honourable member's argument is that a reduction below or slightly above 25 per cent. will be within the scope, while a reduction of 90 or 100 per cent. will be beyond it.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : It is only a small variation in the fraction.

Mr. President : Is not 90 or 99 per cent. a fraction ?

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : No. We cannot call that an amendment because it would amount to a total remission of land revenue.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member mean that a reduction not exceeding 50 per cent. will be within, while a reduction of above 50 per cent. will be beyond the scope of the resolution ?

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : To lay a hard and fast rule as to how far the scope should extend, whether to 40, 45, or 50 per cent. would be beyond anybody's power. I only suggest a common-sense view of the matter, and I am sure most of the gentlemen in this House will agree with me that we should not unduly restrict the scope of amendments to resolutions. We should put a liberal and common-sense interpretation upon amendments. Therefore, I suggest, Mr. President, if you think that these amendments do not go far beyond the scope of the original resolution you will kindly give the House an opportunity to discuss them ; on the other hand, if in your opinion they go far beyond the scope of the original resolution you may disallow them.

3 P.M.

Mr. President : Is the Legal Remembrancer inclined to enlighten the House on the point ?

Mr. S. L. Sale : If I am to give an opinion on this question the first thing I should do is to look into Webster's Dictionary for the meaning of the word "scope." It may be assumed that the mover of the resolution intended to present the resolution in a responsible manner, that is to say, he genuinely expresses the hope that the Government would reduce land revenue by 25 per cent. without reducing themselves to bankruptcy. If you are going to increase the percentage by which it is proposed to reduce the land revenue, the chances of the Government being reduced to bankruptcy are proportionately increased. Therefore I suggest that the scope of the resolution means the possibility of the resolution being accepted by the financial authorities of Government consistent with their obligations to carry on efficient administration. For that reason I would respectfully suggest that your proposed ruling is perfectly correct, and any fraction higher than 25 per cent. would be outside the scope of the resolution.

Mr. President : Will an amendment that a Bill which is intended by its mover to apply to five districts in the Punjab, be extended to 10 districts within the scope of the motion ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : A Bill ?

Mr. President : Every clause of a Bill is a motion and the Bill as a whole is an aggregate of motions.

Mr. S. L. Sale : It seems to me there is a difference because a Bill is intended, unless there appears something to the contrary, to apply to the whole province. This House has power to legislate for the whole province. Unless it is the intention of the House to restrict the application of the Bill to certain districts only, an amendment like that would not be beyond the scope of the Bill.

Mr. President : Take, for instance, a motion asking for an enquiry into the condition of poverty of some of the districts in the Punjab. Would an amendment seeking to include some more districts in the enquiry be within or outside the scope of the original motion ?

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : I think the amendment makes the resolution quite a different proposition. That there should be a 25 per cent. reduction of land revenue is quite a different proposition from the one asking for a 30 per cent. reduction and different answers will be needed for each resolution. As a matter of fact, the amendment brings forward an altogether new resolution. I think any amendment which changes the original proposition substantially is not to be treated as an amendment, but as a different original proposition. I think that your ruling that the amendment is out of order is correct.

Mr. President : I have not given my ruling yet. If I remember aright, when the Land Revenue Bill was under discussion the original clause said that on re-settlement the land revenue of a district should not exceed 33⅓ per cent. ; while an amendment that it shall not exceed 25 per cent. was moved and carried by the Council and assented to both by the Governor and the Governor-General. It was not objected that the amendment was beyond the scope of the original clause.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : The Government proposed 33⅓ per cent. and the amendment was 25 per cent.

Mr. President : Yes. Did not the amendment go beyond the scope of the original motion ?

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : I am not saying anything in regard to the use of the word "scope." All I say is if an amendment alters radically the scope of the original proposition, then that amendment is not an amendment but an entirely new proposition.

Mr. S. L. Sale : I have here the Concise Oxford Dictionary which defines the word 'scope' as "the extent to which it is permissible or possible to range." I suggest that the honourable member did not intend that it was possible to range beyond 25 per cent., having due regard to the financial stability of the province. If that is so, it is not within the scope of the resolution to suggest a reduction of 33⅓ per cent.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I submit that the Government might be generous enough to come forward and say they would find ample funds not to be content with 25 per cent. but to go to the extent of 33⅓ per cent. In that case the amendment would be within the range of the original resolution. I think also the meaning of the word 'scope' as given in the Dictionary favours my contention.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Why not bring in an amendment asking the Government to give reasonable remission ? That would cover even 33 per cent. or even 66 per cent.

Mr. President : Yes, but in that case perhaps the resolution would not have made a specific recommendation and might not have been in order.

Mian Nurullah : We might say 25 per cent. or any reasonably greater percentage.

(*The meanings of the word "scope" as given in Webster's Dictionary were read to the House*).

Mr. President : As the point is not free from doubt. I decide to give the benefit of the doubt to the mover of the amendment and allow him to move it.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : When we got copies of the resolution we thought that the honourable mover of the resolution included *abiana* also in his motion, but as he has made it clear that he has excluded *abiana* I hope the Government will take due notice of it and give a fair and generous consideration to the request, seeing that after all we want only land revenue to be reduced. Much has been said in this House from time to time about the bad agricultural conditions prevailing in this country. Since 1927, when the severe dust-storm swept over the whole province and devastated almost the whole of the wheat crop, the agriculturists have not been able to recover their economic position. Then followed a period of scanty rains and then heavy rains causing floods which devastated the whole area crossed by the five rivers. The ryots lost their cattle, houses and everything, and the whole area was covered with water. The sufferings of the agriculturists from this calamity are too fresh in the minds of honourable members to need any recapitulating on my part to-day. To add to this, in 1929, swarms of locusts visited the province and did considerable damage to both the *rabi* and *kharif* crops. On top of all this came the heavy blow caused by this abnormal fall in prices. Within living memory we have never heard of wheat being sold at Rs. 1-4-0 a maund. The total effect of all these calamities put together has been to reduce the agriculturists almost to destitution. His power of recovery is absolutely gone.

It might be argued that Government have not been experiencing any very great difficulty in the matter of collecting land revenue. I am afraid it would be a mistaken view of looking at things. The Punjab agriculturist has for over a century been with the Government and has never failed to help the Government whenever it wanted his assistance. Implicit obedience to Government has been instilled into him, and we may say that to him the word of Government is like the word of God. I hope there will be no one in the House to dispute this statement. But I am not pleading this as a justification or as a claim for differential treatment for the Punjab agriculturist. But I am afraid they have no voice and rarely does their voice reach the ears of the Government officials who are highly placed. I am only stating a matter of fact that the Punjab agriculturist will stand by the Government through thick and thin. They know that the lambardar is there, the zaildar is there, the tahsildar is there and that the whole might of the Government is at their back, and that land revenue is to be paid every *kharif* and *rabi* harvest, and that there is no getting out of it. It does not matter whether he sells his daughter, or his ornaments or his holdings, inasmuch as the lambardar will be at his door on a particular day and there will be no getting out of it. This habit has been ingrained in him, and is responsible for the regular payment of land revenue each harvest. The Financial Commissioner perhaps knows how his officials find the task of collecting the land revenue harvest after harvest since 1927. It is no reply to my argument to say that the land revenue is easily realised every year. If the Deputy Commissioners and the revenue staff in the districts are doing their duty, I am sure the Government at the headquarters will be receiving many reports, detailed and confidential reports as to the stringency prevailing in the various districts of the Punjab. There must also be warnings from these officers saying: "We have been able to realise land revenue this time after very great difficulty, but next time we will not be

[Sh. Abdul Ghani.]
able to realise it at all." If he is not in possession of any such documents then I would simply say that there is something wrong somewhere. The administration is not in touch with the actualities prevailing in the province. Perhaps their hands are occupied in dealing with agitation, sending people to jail, keeping them there as State guests and letting them out whenever they please even before they have served out their sentence. If that is so, then I have nothing to say. In 1927, and again in 1928, land revenue was realised because zamindars had certain savings with them. In subsequent harvests they had to take recourse to the *sahukar*, and last year they were denied the assistance of the *sahukar* when there was no chance of realising as the zamindar had been reduced to a state of abject destitution. I think if the ordinance had not been promulgated which was of course meant for a particular class of people who were able to pay and would not pay land revenue because a certain section of the people dissuaded them from paying land revenue, the authorities would have found it very difficult to realise land revenue last time. That ordinance was misused in certain districts; I know it full well, and people were frightened. They were told; "here you are, you can at once be sent to jail for six months after a summary trial if you refuse to pay land revenue." The result was that the people who were reduced to a state of poverty under the fear of the sword of revenue hanging over their head, managed to pay their land revenue somehow or other.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: May I ask to which district the honourable gentleman is referring now?

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: You can take it that it was done in Dera Ghazi Khan.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani: I am glad that the Honourable Member has been supplied with the requisite information he was so anxious to have. My honourable friend has mentioned a district which is across the Indus on the extremity of the Punjab. I know certain facts about a district which is not so far away from the headquarters, but I think that would be enough. I was submitting that this time, I know it as a fact, landlords have been at a loss to find tenants for their lands because the people have left the lands. A limit has been reached when the returns from the land are not paying the capital and labour spent on it and land cultivation is becoming a profitless job, and I think it would be a very sad state of affairs if Government remained reticent and did not come to the rescue of these people who would be reduced to straits and then would take to law-breaking because, after all they have to feed themselves somehow. The result would be anarchy in the province; law and order would be set at nought, and this time Government would be faced with something which is sterner than *inqilab zindabad*, and these people who want their bread, who want to keep their body and soul together will stand with their backs to the wall, and unless they are fed I do not think there will be peace or rest in the land. I am not in the habit of using strong words, but I think it my duty to lay all the facts before this House and before Government so that they may not adopt the attitude of optimism which I saw being evinced in the earlier part of this session of this House, when some of the most responsible members got up and said that things were not so bad as they were depicted. As a matter of fact, things are very serious, and they are growing worse every day, and I think if the land revenue

demand or the whole administration of this branch of public revenue is not fully gone into it might be too late to make amends at all. When wheat is selling at Rs. 1-4-0 per maund, I ask, is it just at all for Government to insist on the same old rate which was assessed either in 1900 or 1910 or 1920, and that the same should continue to be paid? Assessments were made during settlements at times when prices were very high, especially in areas that are irrigated by canals, and I would submit that the hardship is being felt to a greater extent there, because by intensive cultivation the fertility of the land is soon disappearing. During the initial years the *awabkars* finding that their land was irrigated and fetched a good price for their produce adopted a standard of living and were accustomed to a mode of life which was more expensive. Suddenly a very huge change came up, and it is impossible for all those people to accommodate themselves to the changed state of affairs. The result is that not only have the harvests failed, not only has land become less fertile, not only are there periodical closures of canals in those tracts, not only has their standard of living gone up and they want more money, but their assessment which was levied at a time when everything was prosperous is out of all proportion to the existing conditions. So, unless you go back to the assessment which was prevalent in the country in the early nineties, it would be most unfair for Government to persist that the present rate of land revenue should continue to be levied from the people. Government is not entitled to demand that rate, and it is time that the revenue authorities should at once go back to the old rates because conditions that are now prevailing in the province were not even then prevailing, they were not so bad in the early nineties. With these remarks I would whole-heartedly support the resolution that is before the House.

Pir Akbar Ali [Ferozepore, Muhammadan, Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, in view of the conditions now prevalent in the country the resolution under consideration requires much deliberation. There is not a shadow of doubt about it that the Government's sympathies are with the zamindars, and they have also done much towards affording them relief. The Government of India have recently placed them under a deep debt of gratitude by imposing a duty of Rs. 1½ per maund on foreign wheat. The Punjab Government have also done much to ameliorate their condition. But notwithstanding all this generosity we cannot afford to shut our eyes to the stern reality. The zamindars are unable to pay land revenue unless some remission is granted to them. Their circumstances are straitened. They have not still recovered from the hard hit they received on account of the slump in the market. The *rabi* crop is not a success, and I do not think it will be in any way helpful to them in meeting the Government demands. It will be very kind of the Government if they show them further generosity by accepting this resolution. They are already grateful to the benign Government. By this act of kindness they will feel more so. The statement prepared by Mian Nurullah is quite correct. Twenty-five per cent. is not much. It means only 12 per cent. if the proposed remission of 25 per cent. is spread over a period of six months. The Government should have no hitch in acceding to such an ordinary request. Ours is a province of the agriculturists, and it would not be wrong to say that the Government is representative of the zamindars, therefore they should always be ready to extend a helping hand to the latter. With these words I strongly support

[Pir Akbar Ali.]
the resolution now before the House and hope the Government would accept it without demur.

Mian Nurullah : Sir, I rise to a point of order. About my amendment I want to say that I will be losing support, for, those members who have spoken now will not be able to give their support to my amendment to be moved now.

Mr. President : Why not ?

Mian Nurullah : Will they be allowed to speak again on the amendment ?

Mr. President : Certainly.

Sardar Arjan Singh [Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural] : With your permission, Sir, I should like to extend my whole-hearted support to the resolution which is now before the House. The class for whose benefit this resolution is moved has certain special features which cannot be lost sight of when we are dealing with a resolution of this nature. We know that the Punjab is a province of small holdings ; we know that the condition of the poor zamindar is very backward, that he is very poor, that he works very hard all the year round, day in and day out, along with his wife and children, and after all when we examine his net earnings or his net savings we are surprised to see that in spite of the fact that he had no holidays to enjoy, no recreation, still his income is hardly sufficient to meet his bare necessities of life. So far as recurring expenses are concerned, as for instance marriage expenses of his children, he has to go to the *sahukar*. Now, along with this we have to remember that, just as the Honourable Finance Member put it the other day, though the zamindar might have been hard hit, still he has been very regular and punctual so far as his obligations under the law are concerned ; so far as payments of land revenue are concerned, he has been very regular ; and it was put by the Honourable Finance Member that the zamindar might have had sometimes to mortgage his land temporarily, still he has been very prompt so far as his obligations under the law are concerned. Side by side with this, as has been said by Shaikh Abdul Ghani, the zamindar has been a very quiet citizen. Considering the political situation of the country, considering the abject poverty in which he is, and also considering the serious and sedulous efforts that were made to affect his loyalty, still he has not been swept by these considerations and he has kept his head cool. It is an admitted fact that he had fought the battles of the Empire. It cannot, however, be said that his was a slavish mentality, and therefore he has been prompt in the payment which the law imposes. My submission is that it is common knowledge that the zamindar is in fact ill-clad, ill-housed and,at the top of all this, he is illiterate, and also sometimes it is said not only here but in England also that the Government is playing into the hands of well-educated people and is not looking after the interests of the masses who have been entrusted to its care. Unfortunately the condition of the zamindar is such that he is illiterate and therefore he is not heard on the platform ; he is ignorant and poor and therefore he is not controlling any press. These are some of the difficulties of which the Government must take note. Therefore it is that I submit that the Government

should in this matter rise to the height of the occasion and give relief to the poor zamindars. If the Government did not see its way to accede to this request then it becomes the bounden duty of those of us who represent the rural classes in this House to whole-heartedly support the resolution and bring pressure upon the Government to give effect to this resolution. We must not give an impression that these resolutions are brought before the Council only to make a spectacular effect. With these remarks I whole-heartedly support the resolution.

Mr. H. Calvert (Financial Commissioner): Sir, I feel myself in a position of very great difficulty in rising to speak on this resolution; because I feel, and all on this side of the House feel, that our sympathies are very real with the zamindars in their present distress, while, on the other hand, our responsibilities for carrying on the Government of this province are equally great. I should like at the outset to make it clear that every one on the Government benches is fully in sympathy with the people of this province in their present acute distress. I hope that if any one on the other side of the House ever thought that the Government members were lacking in sympathy he will put that thought away now, once and for ever. It is quite true that the zamindars of this province have suffered a cruel calamity in the collapse of prices. But I hope they will not feel hurt if I remind them that the result of the all-round reduction in their spending power has affected others. I hear on general authority that litigation has declined, that the fees of legal practitioners are not what they were. We know that the commission agents in the *mandis* lost lakhs of rupees over the collapse of prices of wheat last year, and that all shop-keepers are feeling the result of the loss of spending power of the people. It is true that the zamindars, as the primary producers, were the first to be hit by this calamity, but they are not by any means the only members of the body politic that have been hit nor will they in the end be hit the worst.

In moving the resolution Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah spoke with commendable restraint and moderation. But I should like before passing on, to point out one or two little slips which he made, which I think might prevent members from taking a dispassionate view of the resolution now before us. He seemed to think that India, or for the matter of that, the Punjab, was in some way peculiar in its land revenue system, and that in no other country with a civilised Government is land taxed at all or taxed so heavily. I should like to know of any country where the assessment of land is lighter than in the Punjab. Another statement which I should like to repudiate was that the cost of production has now become more than the value of the produce. I have seen that stated in the press, and I have heard it mentioned before, but so long as half the land in this province is being cultivated by tenants who pay *batai* rent and as long as the *batai* rent is being paid it cannot be said that the cost of cultivation exceeds the value of the produce.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani put forward an argument that in many places landlords could not now secure tenants. But he omitted a most important point in that statement, namely, the conditions which the landlords were trying to impose on the tenants. Our experience, extending over colony districts, shows that there is still a far greater demand by tenants for land than we have land to give. In the greater part of the Punjab there is no shortage of tenants, but shortage of land.

[Mr. Calvert.]

I quite admit that rents have fallen, and that those gentlemen who depend for their income on rents, either cash or kind, have suffered a very serious diminution in their income. But that diminution does not seem to be as great as I at one time was inclined to think. I put it at one-half. The evidence I have received from Deputy Commissioners up and down the province is that the reduction is not more than one-third. I am not in any way trying to disprove the case of the zamindars for considerate treatment. I have only just tried to brush away certain errors or misconceptions which have been created in the discussion on the resolution.

Then, Shaikh Abdul Ghani based his argument on an appeal to the past excellent record of the zamindars of this province. I do not think in this House it is at all necessary to remind any one of us of the brilliant record of the zamindars in the war or in maintaining peace or helping the Government in combating lawlessness. The problem is not the record of the zamindar in war or peace, but whether it is in the interests of the zamindars themselves that we should take away from them certain services which they have now become accustomed to. Is it really in the interests of the zamindars that we should close down colleges and schools, close down hospitals and veterinary dispensaries? Shaikh Abdul Ghani tried to excite our sympathy by foretelling the dire state of affairs which would ensue if this particular resolution was not agreed to. I think he rather exaggerated. The average land revenue per cultivated acre in this province is less than two rupees. It is Rs. 1-15-7. The average holding is about seven acres. That is to say, the average land revenue that a zamindar pays is about Rs. 15 a year. The *rabi* instalment is about one-half, that is, Rs. 7-8-0. This resolution proposes to reduce that from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 5-10-0. Now, I refuse to believe that it is fair to suggest evil forebodings of what may happen if this resolution is not accepted. as if the conduct of the people depended on the difference between Rs. 7-8-0 and Rs. 5-10-0.

My learned friend from Lyallpur has given us some figures about the land revenue paid on cultivated lands. I think he is quite wrong in his figures. I am in charge of the Court of Wards with a large number of squares, and I may assure the honourable member that although our receipts have dropped, and have dropped very considerably indeed, they still show a considerable return. The recent leases of temporary cultivation in the Lyallpur district give us an average of Rs. 17 per acre clear of all rates. If you allow, say, Rs. 5-8-0 for land revenue you still have a clear Rs. 11-8-0 per acre. In other parts of the province, in Montgomery and elsewhere we have numerous squares which, although yielding very reduced income, still show a clear return to this day. So the argument that the value of the produce is not more than the cost of production cannot be entertained.

Sardar Buta Singh : This is paid by incurring debts.

Mr. H. Calvert : Now, Sir, turning to the resolution, if I were assured that this remission of one-fourth of the *rabi* instalment would satisfy zamindars and would relieve them of their distress I would be willing to recommend that it should be accepted. My point is this that this proposal gives practically no appreciable relief to zamindars. The average relief afforded is round about Rs. 1-11-0 per zamindar. If any one tells me that the trouble

from which zamindars suffer can be cured by offering them Rs. 1-11-0 each, all I can say is that my conception of this calamity must be very wrong. The point is that this trouble is so wide that it is beyond the power of this or any other Government to relieve (*hear, h ar*). The Banking Enquiry Committee have published estimates of the value of crops produced in the villages at round about 100 crores. Now let us assume for one moment that half of that produce is consumed in the villages and is not sold, still 50 crores are left to enter into trade and commerce. The members have only got to make a small mental calculation of the effect of the new price on these 50 crores are see that the loss is so great that the remission of 50 lakhs will not give any real relief at all. The problem is really a very serious one, and I think it would be better if we discussed this not in terms of Re. 1-11-0 per head, as does the resolution, but in the terms of what a Government constituted as this is, can do. Actually the Punjab Government is and always will be in a very helpless position in a calamity like this. We are a landlocked province and our ports are in the hands of other authorities. We have to send our produce to distant places by rail and again we are at the mercy of other authorities. We are not like a small island state which has control over its export, we are a landlocked province and are entirely dependent on other authorities for railway freights, import duties and most measures of relief. I come now to the question of reducing the revenue of Government as a means of remedying this terrible calamity that has fallen on the people of the province. I should like to remind the House that this Punjab Government represented by the Honourable the Finance Member, has recently presented in this chamber a budget which balanced. The Government of India were not able to do so, and it has had to increase taxation and not reduce it ; it has had to increase taxation very heavily. Other provinces have, I think, all shown deficit budgets, they had either to fall back on loans or fresh proposals for taxation. The Punjab, I believe, of all the provinces is the only province that has produced a balanced budget. That budget was before this Council a few days ago. This Council passed that budget, both income and expenditure, without a single reduction.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Without a single division.

Mr. H. Calvert : The whole of the expenditure side was before the Council and the whole of the expenditure side was passed by the Council, by all the members of this Council without a single division. Is it fair, is it really being responsible, a few days after passing the budget without a single division, to come and unbalance it by reducing the income side by 50 lakhs and thereby to force a reduction of expenditure ? This Council passed the expenditure only a few days ago and now we are asked by honourable members to reduce it. As one of the advisers of Government it has been my duty to examine the actions taken by various Governments throughout the world, which have tried to meet this calamity. It has proved a calamity for the whole of the world and for all the countries of which I have any information. These Governments have tried various measures to relieve zamindars, and I can say that in every single measure adopted by these Governments they made the position of the zamindars worse. The Canadian Government have left the zamindars in a position worse than before. Zamindars were encouraged to hold up their wheat when prices were falling, and the result is that, instead of getting prices favour-

[Mr. H. Calvert.]

able to them, they have waited until prices have fallen far below, and they cannot even recover the sums advanced to the zamindars. It has led to a state verging on bankruptcy. In Egypt the Egyptian Government assisted to hold stocks of cotton in order to keep up prices with the result that the Egyptian Government is now burdened with a stock of about 16 crores of rupees of cotton which it cannot sell. Egypt is a poor country about the size of 3 or 4 districts of the Punjab, but it is a very heavily taxed country, and now the Government in trying to help the people, has incurred an additional burden of 16 crores. Germany and France have also suffered equally. They have been trying to hold up the prices of rye and wheat. The United States of America has embarked on a very ambitious scheme which it is anticipated will involve the Government in a very heavy loss. In America they are fortunate in that the zamindar population is comparatively small, and they are able to distribute the burden over the population as a whole. In the Punjab we cannot adopt that method. Our zamindars are round about 80 per cent. of the total population, and if the zamindars try to seek some one else who can bear their burden then they will find nobody. I know, Sir, there will be honourable members who will suggest that the Government should meet this loss by reducing expenditure. My honourable friend, Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, may perhaps feel inclined once again to resort to the argument which he used before. I think, Sir, this argument is not fair. He took the case of the Irrigation Branch and pointed out how expenditure has steadily increased and is still increasing and how the income is not increasing in proportion, and he used that as an argument against Government. That argument was not fair, in that he included in the expenditure the cost of the Sutlej Valley Project, but on the income side the income has hardly yet begun to come in. His argument was that in spite of increased cost of canal construction, in spite of the increased cost of repairs, in spite of the increased cost of maintenance, this Government has forborn from putting up water rates in proportion. It has spared the zamindars extra expenditure which Government had to bear. This is all his argument amounts to. Then he went on to say that the expenditure has increased on other services. Well, it has increased in order to improve the conditions of living for the people of this province. In no single case have these services obtained a rupee of money except with the consent of this Council. It is this Council which has voted the increased expenditure on education, increased expenditure on colleges, on cattle breeding, veterinary work, human hospitals and the other services which account for the increased expenditure, and it does not seem to me quite reasonable first to pass all those measures and then to turn round and accuse the Government for carrying out the wishes of the Council in rendering these services to the people of the province. I need hardly say that the zamindars as the largest body of the population have received the greatest benefit from these various Government departments, and if, as it may be necessary to embark on a policy of severe retrenchment, anybody suffers, the severest sufferers will be the zamindars. For many years past we have, as a set policy, been trying to recruit a large portion of zamindars in all services, and it is impossible to reduce expenditure without reducing the income of the agriculturist members of the services, and as they form a large proportion of Government servants their loss will be great. Now, Sir, the question is what could be

done in a crisis like this which has baffled everysingle Government in the world. Various Governments have tried m easures which have all resulted in doing more harm than good. An International committee is sitting at Geneva trying to see what world-wide co-operation can achieve to relieve the distress caused by the collapse of prices. That International committee has ascribed the present distress to various causes like gold shortage, reparations after the war, hostile tariffs, and so on, but it has not recommended reduction of land revenue as a remedy for collapse of prices. It has recommended enquiry along various lines chiefly improving international trade conditions, improving banking conditions and improving credit conditions, but this international committee has in no degree recommended reduction of land revenue as a remedy for this crisis. I do not speak in a hostile spirit at all, but I would like any honourable member to point out to me a single instance of any country in the world where a resolution like this necessitating a reduction of taxation has been moved and carried. On the contrary, every country in the world of which I have information has been enforced by circumstances to increase taxation. It must be well-known to every one here that, as in the past so in the future, the Government of this province must do all it can to improve the economic conditions of its people, and as the greater part of the people are zamindars, the greater part of the task of Government is to improve the economic position of the zamindars of this province. I am not in a position to say that Government will not, when the time comes, offer some remedy on the lines suggested. I am not saying that Government will give this or that, more or less. We do not yet know what the price of wheat is going to be when the *rabi* instalment falls due. We have had lately concessions in regard to the railway freight on wheat.

We have now a Bill in the Legislative Assembly for an import duty of round about Rs. 1-8-0 a maund. If the effect of that Bill is to raise the price of wheat by 2 annas a maund that would give the Punjab the Rs. 50 lakhs extra which the honourable mover wishes to get.

4 P.M.

It was remarked by the honourable member, Shaikh Abdul Ghani, that we, higher officials, know nothing about the real position of the zamindars; I wish that he knew the numerous sources of information open to us in our official capacity. We have something like 7 lakhs of members in our co-operative societies, who can and do explain their troubles with a very free voice. And, having lent money to the members of these societies, we have to be closely watching the agricultural conditions, the growth of crops in the province, and so on, in order to avoid accumulation of outstandings. We keep a very close touch indeed with the small holders of land in this province through the co-operative organisation. I have a large number of estates under the Court of Wards. The total acreage of these estates is very considerable, and it is part of my duty to raise as much income as I can from them, and I am in a position to say very definitely what we do get from these estates. I know, I appreciate fully, the very difficult position which those estates and I are placed in owing to this collapse in prices. I do not yet say that the position is so critical that land is no longer asked for by tenants, that it no longer pays to cultivate it or that they cannot show a return on cultivation. The loss to the zamindars is very great

[Mr. H. Calvert.]
indeed, but not quite so great as some gentlemen, perhaps carried away by their sympathy with their fellowmen, have been inclined to suggest. Honourable members may say and fairly ask that while I admit the extraordinarily difficult position in which the zamindars are placed, and while I admit the appalling losses of income to zamindars as a whole it is not right that I should oppose the resolution, without suggesting some alternative measure. My difficulty is this, that, in the first place, such measures as might alleviate the position here are outside the sphere of this Government. The Government of India have charge of freight rates; they have charge of our import duties; they have charge of most of the factors which might affect the prices of produce in this province. Again, the prices depend very largely on the world gold position. That, again, is outside our province. My point here is that although this Government may come to the aid of the zamindars by legislation, may come to the aid of zamindars by using its executive authority in various ways, yet it cannot really come to their aid on the financial side. That is a side on which this Government cannot come to their aid. I put the total loss of the zamindars at a fair estimate of many crores, and so light is the burden of land revenue that a few rupees' remission will afford no real remedy for the fall in prices. The *batai* rent is about half the total produce and land revenue only about 10 per cent. My honourable friend from Lyallpur has given me a very nice argument. He said that the value of *bhusa* is more than the land revenue and water charges, so that we need not bother about prices of the grain. He puts the value of the *bhusa* at Rs. 20 and the land revenue and water rates at Rs. 14. Actually the land revenue and water rates are nowhere anything like Rs. 14, as given by him. The land revenue before the collapse of prices was about 6 per cent. of the produce; it is now about 10 per cent. It is very light. If you assume that the income of the zamindar has fallen to the extent of one-third, if not more, then you will realise that the loss from the fall in prices is very heavy, it is far heavier than could be covered by reducing the land revenue, and indeed no remission of land revenue, even of the whole land revenue, could really put the zamindar back in his old position. It is beyond our power, whatever our sympathy, whatever our feelings, with the best will in the world, to come to the relief of the zamindars on the financial side In other ways we are considering and we shall consider every possible remedy, but on the financial side we find ourselves in the very difficult position of not being able to come with any reasonable effect to their aid.

Chaudhri Kesar Singh (Amritsar-*cum*-Gurdaspur, Non-Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I had no intention to speak on the resolution now before the House. But I would like to make a few observations. As a matter of fact, we are not practical men and remain content with making speeches. I think it would not be out of place to say a few words about the conditions prevailing in my *ilaqa*. I can say with authority that the conditions obtaining in that *ilaqa* are nowhere to be found in this vast country. The plight of the zamindars there is most pitiable. They have of course paid the land revenue on the last *kharif* crops, but in doing so they have experienced difficulties which God alone knows. Sir, the people of the *ilaqa* have always been loyal to the Government and never hestitated

to render all possible assistance to the Government in times of need. It is, therefore, up to Government to come to the rescue of the zamindars of that *ilaqa*. I support the proposal that a general remission of 25 per cent. be granted on all *rabi* crops of 1931. I may also say that suspension of land revenue would not help us. As a matter of fact, suspensions do more harm than good. Because only a small fraction of the land revenue to the extent of 4 annas a rupee is suspended and thereafter the poor zamindars, and I should say the unsophisticated zamindars, have to pay in some form or other four times the land revenue so suspended. I may also add that the zamindars now hesitate to go to the *sahukars* for fear of being deprived of their lands in consequence of the recent rulings of the High Court in favour of the creditors. If the zamindars of my *ilaqa* were compelled to pay land revenue in full, they would rather give up their lands. Sir, I also raised this question in a meeting of the District Board and invited the attention of the Chairman and the members to the sad plight of the zamindars of the whole *ilaqa* in general and of Shakargarh tahsil in particular and also to the urgent need for their relief. With these words I support this resolution.

[*At this stage Mr. President left the chair, and it was occupied by the Deputy President.*]

Mian Nurullah: The Government should thank the honourable mover of this resolution for having moved it. But I am sorry to say that he has been too conservative in his demand. Among the speakers who followed him and supported him I am very thankful to members like the honourable member from Sargodha, but Ia m sorry to see that even he, like the mover of the resolution, cannot properly realise the condition prevailing outside the country. The honourable member from Ferozepore, the honourable member who spoke after him and the Honourable the Financial Commissioner for Development, all of them I am sorry to say cannot have first hand information on the subject. All those speakers that preceded the Honourable the Financial Commissioner are either practising at the bar or have other sources of income than land, and they cannot appreciate the position of the zamindars. I am very grateful to the Honourable the Financial Commissioner for having shown sympathy with the zamindars, and I can assure him that we zamindars do appreciate his work and realise that but for him Government would not have done so much for the zamindars, and the Government itself would have been in a worse financial position than now. He has acted a good check on Government. I have just now given the estimated profit and loss account of a zamindar owning one square of land in the district of Lyallpur for the *rabi* crop of 1931. It has been worked out on proper business lines. The Financial Commissioner said that the figures put on the expenditure side are rather high, and I would like to point out to him and clear it from his mind that I have put the word 'etc.', which probably he could not interpret correctly. I did not include the legal, and sometimes illegal, expenses that the zamindar has to meet. The *faslana* is never recognised by law, but there is no zamindar who does not pay it. I have been myself a victim to this collection. (*The Honourable Revenue Member*: Do not pay it). (*Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah*: I would ask the Honourable Revenue Member to ask his munshis not to pay it on his lands). (*Pir Akbar Ali*: Is there any zamindar in this House who can say that he has not been paying it?) Considering that I have

[Mian Nurullah.]
been moderate on the income side I have been moderate on the side of expenditure also. The rate on which I have made my calculation about wheat is Rs. 1-12-0, but the honourable the Financial Commissioner has just said that it is actually less, that it is Rs. 1-10-0 or Rs. 1-9-0. If you consider the disparity between the *mandi* rate and the country rate it should be three or four annas less. On that account another Rs. 30 should have been deducted from the income side. I would like the House to follow me through the figures of the Account[1] I have put before them. If you just look at wheat, the main item, it produces an income of, as I have put it, Rs. 235, while the expenditure side on it carries away Rs. 154. The next item, gram, marketable gram, fetches hardly as much as the land revenue on the other side. Fodder gives no income to the zamindars while the Rs. 20 paid as revenue is a burden. *Toria*, the crop that was used up to meet the deficit of the previous harvest, does not give us anything while the revenue we have to pay comes to Rs. 28. That is the last straw to break he camel's back.

There is nothing else which is likely to fetch any income. Labour yet remains to be paid. The question of interest and depreciation is never realised by any zamindar unless and until bankruptcy stares him in the face. My honourable friend the Financial Commissioner pointed out that these accounts of income and expenditure were not true. Probably he does not like my method of accounting and does not want us to resort to the methods of the *sahukar* in order to save oursleves from ruin. It is clear that the zamindar is running heavily into debt. Recently I have started an enquiry into the economic condition of the zamindars in my district. From the small amount of statistics I have got I find that the average holdings comes to about half a square of land. Therefore you can easily imagine that the condition of an average zamindar will be much worse off than that of a zamindar owning one square of land. I need not dwell on the condition of the tenants. They do not get even half the income that comes out of the square of land. The zamindar instead of engaging labourers makes his brother or other relatives help him. Even then the marketable product of the zamindar is little and that of the tenant much less.

From what I have said just now I want to draw important inference. Under the heading of wheat you have 123 maunds that is sold in the market, calculating at the rate of 15 maunds per acre. Nobody refuted the figures given by me in the July session at Simla in connection with my resolution for the reduction of *abiana* by 25 per cent. Another marketable product is gram which comes to 12 maunds, making the total marketable product to 135 maunds. Out of this you must allow something to be kept in the house of the zamindar to support his family, which usually consists of himself, his wife, four or five children, a sister or mother. Let us allow 50 maunds for the support of his family. That will leave a balance of about 85 maunds of marketable produce. I have shown that the deficit is not less than Rs. 141-12-0. Even there I have not allowed for the recent fall in prices from Re. 1-12-0 to Re. 1-8-0. If we allow Rs. 30 for that also that would make the total deficit about Rs. 170 per square. In order to cover this

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[1]Page 765 *infra*.

deficit the marketable product of 85 maunds will have to be sold at least at Rs. 2 per maund more than the present market rates. Therefore if there is to be a fair parity between the land revenue and the price of the produce of land, you should sell wheat at about Rs. 4 a maund. Rs. 4 is the proper parity. Thus if you want to collect revenues the prices should go up by 100 per cent., and *vice versa* if the prices should remain as they are, the land revenue should be reduced by 50 per cent. at least.

I have till now dealt with the theoretical aspect of the question and shown by calculation what the parity should be. I shall now come to practical side of it. I am thankful to the Government for having given some remission to the zamindars last time, although it was not well placed, in certain cases the most deserving people did not get anything out of it. The richer lands were given remission while the poorer lands got nothing. And the worst of all, *barani* and *chahi* lands were excluded from remission altogether. The demand was made for a general remission of 25 per cent., but ultimately I do not know how much was given. I think it must have been 7 or 8 per cent. This time I request that a uniform rate of remission be given to all the crops, not even fodder being excluded. Now the conditions have bcome much worse. I am afraid that as far as I can gauge the situation, it would be impossible for the Government to collect the land revenue in certain *ilaqas*. The Finance Member's optimism that he would be able to collect Rs. 56 lakhs more than last year I think would be nothing but a dream. I am thankful to the Finance Member and the Financial Commissioner for having appreciated the nice and quiet way in which the countryside behaved during the last civil disobedience movement. The zamindars well deserve that.

Mr. Mukund Lal, Puri : How did they behave ?

Mian Nurullah : There was no disturbance there. They were not affected at all. It may be ignorance, I do not know. But I am sure if the present policy continues, if a substantial remission is not granted to the zamindars, a situation will arise for which the Government will have to blame itself. I am afraid that the Government will be forcing on the zamindars a compulsory course of civil disobedience movement. At present I am glad that the zamindars are not prepared to do any such thing, but who knows what may happen hereafter. Happily for the country the civil disobedience movement has ended, but we cannot guess what is going to happen in the future.

One word more, and I have done. I have been warning the Government that a big movement is gathering strength gradually though imperceptibly throughout the countryside, I mean movement based on socialistic and "red" ideas. Ever since I came to this House I have been doing my best, I have been warning the Government and asking them, pressing upon them, requesting them and imploring them to do something to check this movement, which if left to take its course would surely result in a catastrophy. Speaking on the resolution regarding the appointment of a retrenchment committee I quoted the other day from an appeal issued by the Secretary of Zamindar Sabha to His Excellency the Governor wherein he had stated expressly that unless their demands were met and land revenue reduced it was possible that the shocks caused by the high rates of land revenue might steadily transform the brain-cells of the zamindars to such an extent that

[Mian Nurullah.]
ultimately agrarian revolution might be difficult to avert. Recently while I was collecting statistics, a zamindar in my *ilaqa* worte and I better read a sentence from his letter :—

اگر گورنمنت کو زمیندار وں کو آباد رکہنا منظور ھے تو مندرجہ بالا امورات
کي طرف فوري توجہ دے ورنہ...
اگر زمیندار کي موجودہ حالت کا فوٹو اُتارا جائے تو صاف معلوم ھوجائیگا کہ جو
کماتا وہ ھے اس کے پاس کہانیکو نہیں۔ حالانکہ اس کے بل بوتے پر دنیا آباد ھے۔

This also points in the same direction. The zamindar is running heavily into debt. His capacity for taking loans is absolutely exhausted. How long can we expect him to go on making up deficits and sell his bullocks or even daughters ?

Agriculture is the basic industry and we must do something to save it. At present we are fattening only a few people at the cost of agriculture. The whole fabric of society,—its business, its finance and banking and its various other activities—will collapse if agriculture which is the mainstay of society is not protected. Even our lawyer friends must be beginning to feel the effect of the bad state of agriculture. Save agriculture, and you will be saving all others—*Sahukars*, businessmen, lawyers and everybody else including the Government itself.

Sir, I have given ample statistics to show that the parity rate of land revenue is about double the prevailing market rate of produce. To do justice to the agriculturists, therefore, the land revenue should be reduced by half so long as the market rate stands where it does now. But while realising the needs, the difficulties and requirements of Government which is also our duty to run smoothly I have instead of moving a reduction of 50 per cent. moved a moderate figure of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. I hope that honourable members will support me with all the emphasis at their command.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh (Sikh Urban) : Let me first congratulate the honourable Financial Commmissioner on the admirable way in which he has put forward the case of the Government. I agree with him that the agricultural classes are not the only ones who have suffered from the abnormal collapse in prices. But he must concede that agriculture is the mainstay of this province, and that about 90 per cent. of the population depend upon it directly or indirectly. Upon the prosperity of this class depends the prosperity of trade and industry, and any relief given to this class will automatically provide relief for other classes as well. (*Hear, hear*).

The honourable Financial Commissioner said that it was wrong to say that the zamindars could not recover even the cost of production since 50 per cent. of the land is cultivated by tenants on the *batai* system. In a way he is perfectly right, but he must also see that on account of the low prices prevailing in the market, although the tenant takes half the share and gives the zamindar the other half, the zamindar has to invest some money in order to enable the tenant to pay his share of land revenue or to buy bullocks, and so on. I am afraid that such loans advanced by the zamindars

are not at all likely to be recovered if the present low prices rule the market for any length of time. The zamindars who employ tenants have also to pay the cost of management. In fact the produce that such zamindars get from the land, under the existing prices, is not sufficient to meet land revenue and water charges. It is therefore wrong to say that the zamindars get half the produce from land for their own use.

My honourable friend from Lyallpur has placed before the House a rough account of the profit and loss of a zamindar from one square of land. He comes from a rich district—Lyallpur district—where the land is fertile and the yields are high. But in other colonies, particularly in the Lower Bari Doab Colony where the land is not so good, the zamindar cannot make even as much, or in other words, suffers a heavier loss than the zamindar in the Lyallpur district.

Sir, the honourable Financial Commissioner said that the relief demanded by this resolution will be no relief to the zamindar because it amounts to roughly 7 annas an acre as the total land revenue is about Rs. 1-12-0 or Rs. 1-13-0 per acre. That is true, but if we demand greater relief the other argument is ready that the finances of the province cannot permit so much relief to the zamindar, and if we in a spirit of responsibility for which this Council is well known demand a reasonable relief then our friends on the opposite benches say that this relief would be of no value to the zamindar. It may or may not be but when the House demands this relief and when we say that it is going to relieve us, Government must come forward in a generous spirit and grant this relief. There is no use arguing and expressing lip sympathy. The zamindar now wants practical sympathy. Then my honourable friend said that this province, or I should say this country, is the most lightly taxed so far as land is concerned. I have not got the figures with me, but I would only like to ask a question and that is what is the land tax in England ?

Mr. H. Calvert : The land revenue has been generally commuted. The position is this that one Government in the past anxious to raise some extra sum of money, offered to landlords to buy up the whole of their future land revenue payments by a capital charge, and about ninety per cent. of the landlords paid up this capital sum and they are no longer liable to land revenue. But the Government of to-day has got round that difficulty by rates and the rates are now a very large proportion of the rents.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh : Another argument which was advanced by my honourable friend is this that if relief is given to the zamindars the Government will not be able to balance its budget and money will have to be found from other sources, or as he himself suggested the honourable members would press the Government for retrenchment. But then in a very clever way he said that retrenchment would hit the agricultural classes very hard. I say that this is not at all a fair argument. It may hit particular individuals, but if you seriously reduce your expenditure in the directions in which this House is prepared to give you advice, I am sure that the expenditure will be so reduced that agricultural classes will not be particularly hit and retrenchment will be made with due regard to efficiency in those spheres in which money is now being wasted. Sir, if you look at the trend of prices it will seem that for some time to come at any rate they are not likely to go up very much. Prices in general are governed

[S. S. Sardar Ujjal Singh.]
by the economic law of supply and demand. In the whole world for some years we are producing more wheat every year and we are likely to produce more wheat. Greater area is being brought under cultivation in Russia, in Canada, in Australia, and in our own country we are producing a heavier crop than we used to do some years a back. Now if the world is producing more crop, then surely the prices are likely to remain what they are or even if they rise a little higher they will not help the agriculturists. At present the price is about Rs. 1-12-0 per maund in the market. It went as low as Re. 1-6-0 and even with the knowledge that Government is going to impose import duty to the extent of Re. 1-8-0 per maund, the prices for June and September (new crop) have not gone up very much. I have got the figures for 21st March, and they indicate that June prices are quoted at Rs. 2 per maund and September prices about Rs. 2-2-0. There is another fact which ought to be taken into consideration with regard to this imposition of import duty. I agree that import duty will help the agriculturists to some extent, and it might help to raise prices a little, but other factors have got a great bearing on the rise in prices. India is a great wheat-producing country and we can in normal years export our surplus. Other wheat-producing countries can compete with us in those places where we send our goods. For example, in Arabia and Mesopotamia we send a fair quantity of wheat and if by import duty Australian wheat and other foreign wheat is shut out, still that wheat can compete with Indian wheat in Mespotamia and Arabia. If we take the figures for export and import, we find that in 1930-31 from the 1st April 1930 to the 14th of March 1931, the import of wheat to the various ports of Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi was 197,249 tons and the export during the same period was 196,390 tons. Besides we exported about 40,542 tons of flour to Arabia and Mesopotamia. So we find that we have still got a favourable balance to the extent of about 40,000 tons. If we impose import duty, its effect on prices depends upon the size of the crop that is produced in this country. If we have got a surplus then the import duty is not going to help us very much, but if the crop is short in that case certainly the import duty will help us a good deal. Then another thing which is necessary to help the zamindars besides this imposition of import duty is the reduction in railway freight (*hear, hear*). As I have said, if we have got a surplus we have got to export it, and in competition with foreign wheat in other markets where we are exporting our wheat, reduction in freight to the various ports will help a lot. I have seen that when this concession in freight to Karachi was introduced the prices went up, although afterwards they went down on account of other considerations, but on the day the concession was withdrawn there was an immediate fall of about 3 to 4 annas a maund. The House will realise the effect of this freight when it knows that it costs about Re. 1-4-0 to Re. 1-8-0 per maund to carry wheat to Calcutta from the Punjab markets, whereas it costs 5 annas to 6 annas a maund for importing wheat from Australia to Calcutta.

Mr. H. Calvert : Surely the freight in Calcutta is much less now than it was.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh : I am talking of the full rates. Of course the Calcutta rate is now reduced, but the concession for Karachi has been withdrawn. Two or three things are needed. The imposition of

import duty will help the zamindars to some extent, but that will depend upon the size of the crop in this country. Then reduction in freight will help the zamindars a good deal, but over and above that it is necessary that some relief ought to be given directly because those things might help to raise the prices, but the zamindar wants a direct relief at the time when he has got to pay in cash to the Government, and that relief is more highly appreciated than an indirect relief.

Sir, it may be said that the Government cannot know at what level of prices this relief can be withdrawn or this relief is not necessary. For the information of this House I might submit that the harvest price of wheat in 1929-30, was Rs. 3-2-0 per maund and in 1928-29 it was Rs. 4-6-0 and before the war in 1913-14 the harvest rate was Rs. 3-2-0. The assessment is generally based on rates near about Rs. 3. I am not sure about all assessments but it is based on rates nearabout Rs. 3 in several cases. Even if these measures are adopted the prices are not going to rise very high. So I submit that the relief demanded by the mover of the resolution is absolutely necessary. It has been demanded in a sense of responsibility and in full appreciation of the situation that Government is not able to give greater relief at this moment, and in a spirit that the Government must help the zamindars at this most critical time. It has been said by many honourable members and with great force that starvation is facing the zamindar and he is undoubtedly in a very serious situation. It is not that he can pay and he does not want to pay. As a matter of fact even if he is most anxious to pay the Government dues he is not in a position to pay. He cannot borrow money at this time. He has been borrowing it; he has been selling his property and his bullocks, to pay the land revenue and water charges, he has not that property left, it has practically all been mortaged and he has no credit left to borrow any more money. In these circumstances it will be to the interest of Government and of the public at large if besides indirect relief in the shape of import duty and reduction in railway freight direct relief by way of remission of Government dues is also given.

Mian Nurullah : On a point of order. When I spoke on the resolution I moved my amendment, though not formally. I should like to know whether the honourable members are now speaking on the original resolution or on the amendment or on both.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Did the honourable member move his amendment ?

Mr. Deputy President : The honourable member for Lyallpur did not move his amendment.

Mian Nurullah : I did move my amendment. I even said that instead of 50 per cent. reduction I move for 33⅓ per cent. reduction.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : That was only part of the honourable member's speech.

Mian Nurullah : Will I get another opportunity to move my amendment ?

Mr. Deputy President : No ; but Chaudhri Riyasat Ali can have the opportunity, because he has given notice of the same amendment.

Chaudhri Shah Muhammad [Sheikhupura (Muhammadan) Rural] (*Urdu*) : Sir, the speakers who have preceded me have explained at length the circumstances which have promoted the honourable mover and his supporters to ask for this relief for the zamindars. It would serve no useful purpose if I were to attempt to cover the same ground over again. However there is one thing connected with this all absorbing subject which I want to say before I proceed to offer my remarks on the resolution. The zamindars and their representatives have been and are crying hoarse here and everywhere over the poverty of the zamindars. They have missed no opportunity to impress on the Government and on this Council that the zamindars have of late fallen on bad days and that they have become very poor and consequently cannot pay land revenue and *abiana.* I realise that it is no exaggeration to say all this. But it surprised me very much when I heard the other day that the zamindars of the Sheikhupura tahsil had paid all Government dues in full. I began to wonder how it was that the zamindars, who always express their inability to pay their dues, had been able to meet their liability in this time of distress. Very naturally I tried to fathom this mystery and to find out the reason of this apparent anomaly. It did not take me very long to find out the reason and my enquiry in this field proved one thing beyond doubt and that was that quite an undue advantage had been taken of the simple nature of the zamindars. They and particularly the headmen of the villages had been dodged and tricked into the belief that if they helped the Government in the realisation of land revenue and *abiana*, they would be granted *jagirs*, they would be appointed assessors and *kursinashin* and would be granted other privileges. All the revenue officers from the tahsildar down to the patwari made these more or less false promises to them and thus obtained their help in the realisation of all Government dues. Credulous as they are, these village headmen believed in these false promises and exhorted the zamindars to pay land revenue and *abiana* at all costs so that their prospect of being made *jagirdars* may not be marred. This is how the Government machinery is moving in these days and this is how the people are being tyrannised over. I can safely presume that similar tactics must have been employed in other parts of the province which have no arrears to pay. At the present moment there are no two opinions on this question that the zamindars are suffering from acute economic distress and that in these days it has become very difficult for them to maintain themselves and their families. Lyallpur is the richest district of the province and its lands are known to be very fertile and to emit gold (*Mian Nurullah* : Question). Excuse me please. It is a fact and it is no use for the honourable member to deny it and if the figures that he has quoted in his speech to-day are correct, and I have no reason to doubt their correctness, you can very well imagine what must be the condition obtaining in districts like Kangra, Hissar, Gurgaon, Attock, etc. The need for relief is, therefore, very urgent. In my opinion the proposed relief will prove inadequate under the circumstance. Something more should be done if you are anxious to see the zamindars in prosperous condition. I would request the zamindar members to direct their attention to other means of uplifting the zamindars. They should not always concentrate their attention on one point only and should not be always asking the Government to help the zamindars. In this connection I would suggest that the zamindars should be compelled to adopt secondary professions in order

to supplement their income. It will not do for them to depend entirely on agriculture and if they continue to do so, no power on earth can advance them on the road to prosperity. In the first place each of the zamindars should be made to weave cloth in his leisure hours. Then they should be compelled to take to poultry farming. I know that many of them despise this profession, but they will have to get accustomed to it if they do not like to depend for ever on the charity of others. In the third place it should be made obligatory for each of these zamindars to keep and maintain two sheep and two goats. This will also go to enhance their income. Some of the honourable members seem inclined to laugh at these suggestions and they perhaps think them to be ridiculous. (*Voices*—No, no. Not at all.) But for my part I am convinced that the salvation of the zamindars lies in this that they should take up and follow these and such other professions when they have nothing to do which is connected with agriculture. The honourable members are perhaps aware that before the advent of the East India Company the zamindars in the villages of Bengal and other provinces used to weave cloth in their leisure hours. There are records to show that. That was indeed a happy time for them. If my friend Mian Nurullah, who is such a well-wisher of the zamindars, were to direct his attention to this aspect of the question and could have some legislation enacted making it compulsory for the zamindars to adopt secondary professions which I have named, I can guarantee that he will not have to come to the Council and request it so often that some sort of relief should be given to the zamindars.

I have one complaint to make against the Co-operative Department in this connection. I need hardly say that this department was primarily intended to help the zamindars. I have been always one of its great supporters myself. But it is a pity that in these hard days for the zamindars it has launched a regular and ceasless attack on the zamindars in the form of immediate arbitration. It is hardly necessary for me to say what these arbitrations mean to the debtors. There is no appeal against it. The decrees based on such arbitrations are executed in full and nothing is safe from them. The Senior Sub-Judges easily dispose of applications against such arbitrations saying that they have no power to interfere in this matter. We have now begun to feel that the *sahukars* were better persons to deal with. They were not so hard-hearted and strict. They could be moved and persuaded to put off their claim till some other date by being entreated and implored. But this department has of late become very strict and is not prepared to consider the sad position of the zamindars.

Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan : Is the honourable member relevent in talking of these matters ?

Mr. Deputy President : The honourable member may proceed with his speech.

Chaudhri Shah Muhammad (*Urdu*) : The *sahukars* also have in these days changed. They are not now prepared to accept the cattle of the zamindars in liquidation of the loans that they have advanced to the zamindars contrary to their usual practice. The two famous sects of *Faqirs* and *Odes* in our district have also joined with the forces against the zamindars. They are famous dealers in cattle and in the past they used to purchase cattle from the zamindars. But now they have also refused to do so and

[Chaudhri Shah Muhammad.]

although they are Muhammadans they only advance loans with interest on the security of the cattle. I have stated all these facts to show that during the last two years the conditions have materially changed so far as the zamindars are concerned and even the elements appear to be against them. They deserve relief on a generous scale. Half-hearted measures will not do to help them. The proposed remission of 25 per cent. suggested by the mover of the resolution cannot save the zamindars from destruction and, therefore, I am not prepared to support the main resolution. Of course, one-third reduction means something. I should like that the Government should go even beyond that and should suspend the payment of the land revenue and *abiana* this year. In these days it is hardly possible for the zamindars to pay anything to the Government. Whereas two or three years ago a square of land, if given on lease, could fetch Rs. 900 per year, now very few persons are prepared to take a square of land on lease for even Rs. 300 per year. You can very well imagine from this as to how much the income from lands must have fallen. If in these hard times you press the zamindars to pay in full land revenue and *abiana*, surely you drive them to desperation. You compel them to take loans at a heavy rate of interest of 36 per cent. because their credit is lost and because they cannot get loans at a lower rate. I need not remind the Government that serious consequences will follow this. The peasantry of the province will be destroyed and effaced and if the Government and this Council cannot avert that danger, they had better make room for better men. Therefore do something very substantial for the zamindars which should be of permanent nature. Even suspensions cannot help the zamindars because my experience tells me that a zamindar and economy are two contradictory things and they cannot live side by side. These zamindars have never learnt to save something in prosperous years so that they may make use of that saving in distress. Therefore the best thing to do is that the zamindars should be compelled to adopt secondary professions and be not permitted to kill their time by sleeping for nine hours in day time in summer.

I have one word to say in apology to the Government and the Council. We the zamindar members of the Council often raise this question and take most of the time of the Council in discussing this subject. But we cannot help it. As soon as we go back from this place, the first question that is put to us is, what has been done for reducing land revenue and *abiana* ? We are taken to task if in some session of the Council we do not press for the remission of land revenue and *abiana* and it is why this topic is always uppermost in our minds.

5 P.M.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend [Financial Commissioner]: Sir, I only wish to say a few words. I desire to associate myself with the remarks of some of my predecessors that this debate has been on the whole characterised with moderation. I am particularly indebted to one or two speakers for their suggestions. In particular, the speech of the last speaker, my friend from Mian Channu (S. Ujjal Singh), was most interesting. He had obviously devoted considerable attention to the matter, and I listened to every word that he said with great interest. All of his suggestions have, I think, been examined more than once in the past, but I will again examine them in the light of

his remarks. One of his statements, however that about the commutation prices assumed at settlement was not entirely correct. The matter doubtless interests every member of the House. I have printed statements showing all those prices in my office, and I shall be glad to explain them at any time to any member. But a word of warning is necessary. Commutation prices alone are not an accurate guide in comparing the severity or leniency of different Settlements.

The honourable mover, Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah, criticised in, I venture to think, somewhat intemperate language our land revenue system. I think that the honourable mover had entirely forgotten the fact that he was a member of this House which, less than three years ago, passed the Land Revenue Amendment Act, which had been a subject of discussion in this House for years. The matter was brought to a head by Sir Fazl-i-Husain; it was thrashed out in great detail both in this House and in select committee, and was eventually passed into law with an amendment—a very important amendment, inserted by this House, which changed the whole standard of our assessments. To that amendment Government duly gave effect. Not only the Act itself but also the rules made under it (and they are very important) were fully discussed by this House. Another, though a minor, point in the honourable mover's speech deserves notice. He said that he had been to many villages in Hissar, and had found them in large measure deserted. I am afraid that is quite true for many parts of that district have been suffering considerably from lack of rain. But I wish to point out that to carry this resolution will not benefit in the least Hissar and the other neighbouring districts that are in the same plight. In them the *kharif* crop is far more important than the *rabi*, and probably in only about one-eighth or so of the villages of those districts is there any *rabi* instalment of revenue at all. To the remainder this resolution brings no relief. Indeed it may very possibly do them harm, as, if effect be given to it, Government will obviously have less money to help them than would otherwise be the case.

Our eloquent friend from Lyallpur, Mian Nur Ullah, has worked out elaborate statements showing the costs of cultivation and the profits that will accrue to the people of his district this *rabi*. He shows to his own satisfaction that a remission of 33 per cent. is necessary. I do not doubt that the honourable member has worked very hard at the statement. But he must remember that every district in the province is different from every other. For various reasons the pitch of our assessments varies from tract to tract, and some districts at present pay comparatively much less than others. There is a district not very far from us which to my mind is very lightly assessed. Let us imagine that this resolution of 25 per cent. reduction is carried. If effect be given to it very considerable unfairness of treatment as between district and district will follow, for some districts which deserve nothing will get the concession and others will get more than they deserve. There are some districts under fixed assessment in which the present assessment was imposed years ago and in which, owing to expansion of cultivation on which since the introduction of the present assessment no additional land revenue has been imposed, no difficulty whatever is being experienced in paying the present land revenue despite the fall in prices. I point out these considerations

[Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.]

to the members of this House as practical men. I am not going to worry the House with figures showing the very large amount of money involved by this resolution, nor with figures which I have here, showing how increasingly liberal has been our land revenue administration in recent years. The remissions we gave last autumn have been, I am glad to note, in most quarters "acknowledged with thanks." But I welcome the criticism that possibly they did not all go to the right people. I think in future if similar concessions have again to be given we shall have to examine the principles on which we gave these remissions, and I have already written to Commissioners asking for any suggestions they can offer on the matter.

(*At this stage Mr. President resumed the Chair.*)

There are two factors which are of prime importance in the assessment of land revenue. One is the quality and character of the crop and the second is the price that it will fetch. The present warm weather, and in particular, the absence of early hot winds are such that there is every probability that in most of the province the wheat crop will be good. Of course there are poor tracts in the province where prospects are far from satisfactory. But apart from this factor, there is the almost more important factor, which has been mentioned by practically all the unofficial speakers, which is the uncertainty as to what the price of wheat will be six weeks or two months hence when the harvest is gathered. A favourable point of course is the recent imposition of a fairly severe import duty on foreign wheat. But in a letter I have just received from the Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur he says that it will take a month or two for the effect of that duty to show itself because there are in existence a good many forward contracts for the import of foreign wheat on which that duty will not be charged. All my friends, however, with whom I have discussed the matter say that this duty must, sooner or later, help us in this province by sending prices up a little. It is therefore of extreme importance to remember that we do not know now what the price of wheat will be at harvest time.

Now, Sir, one or two concluding points. I would like all members of this House to bear in mind the sanctity of the settlement contract (*hear, hear*). It is well known that during the war prices of practically all our raw produce went up very high. Suppose that in those days the Punjab Government had come to the people of this province and said that in some districts as those in which the assessment then in force was made before 1910, as prices had gone up out of all reckoning compared with those on which those assessments were based, it was proposed to revise them, though their term had not expired. The people of this province would undoubtedly have charged Government, and with considerable justice, with breach of faith. But the revenue payers of this province, cannot I submit to this House, have it both ways. If the settlement contract is binding on the Government, it is equally binding on the revenue payers, and I trust that this point will be duly borne in mind. How particularly important this matter is, at present honourable members will readily understand if they realize that the date is not far off when, in all probability, the administration of land revenue will be in the hands of gentlemen entirely responsible to them. I beg them earnestly not to take any action now which will make the position

of those gentlemen impossible in future. If, however, this resolution is passed and given effect to, a most dangerous precedent will be created, which is bound to cause immense trouble as the years go on.

Finally, I spoke last November in this House on the kindred subject of the *kharif* demand, and I asked honourable members to trust Government to do what was right in the matter at the proper time. Most of them will, I think, in their heart of hearts admit that Government did so. I therefore ask this House not to pass this resolution now, but to leave the matter in the hands of Government to take whatever action at the proper time the circumstances of that time may call for. (*Hear, hear*).

Chaudhri Riasat Ali [Gujranwala (Muhammadan) Rural]: I beg to move—

"That for the words andfig ures '25' per cent. the words and figures '33 1/3' per cent. be substituted."

Generally speaking the *rabi* harvest comprises of the cultivation of wheat, barley, gram and *toria*, but the chief production of this province in *rabi* is wheat because it is equally sown in *barani*, *chahi* and *nehri* areas, gram being the chief product of the *barani* lands. Wheat is the staple food of the people of the whole world and has therefore become an important article of international trade. Now, the total area cultivated with wheat as early as 1868-69 was 5·5 millions of acres out of a total cultivated area of 20,172,000 acres. Fifty years later, in 1918-19 it was 9 million acres out of 29 millions of total acreage. As wheat plays such an important part in the agricultural activities of this country, it is obvious that the receipt of land revenue depends upon the success or otherwise of its harvets. As has been pointed out here there is no question about the fact now that wheat is selling at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 a maund; deducting the broker's commission and conveyance expenses, it is reduced to Rs. 1-4-0 a maund. According to the figures of the settlement operations in my district the average yield per acre of wheat varied from 8 to 10 maunds in *chahi* as well as *barani* lands. It is only worth according to the current rates Rs. 12 per acre. Take into consideration the cost of cultivation. I will take the case of *chahi* lands first. The first item in this connection is seed. Thirty-two seers of seed would be required which according to the prices prevalent in *Katak* last could be valued at Rs. 1-10-0. The next item is ploughing. At least six times ploughing is necessary for one acre of land for the cultivation of wheat. It requires two bullocks and two men, which involves an expenditure of Rs. 2 each time. That means that the total expenditure on ploughing can be put at Rs. 12. Next comes watering 4 times. It also requires in *chahi* lands two bullocks and two men and involves the same expenditure each time. That means another Rs. 8. Take the land revenue. The average rate of land revenue *Parta chahi* in the district is Rs. 1-8-0. Numberdari dues is 5 per cent. and local rate, 12½ per cent. Adding these it comes to a total of Rs. 1-12-0 per acre. According to this calculation the total expenditure on the cultivation of one acre of wheat in *chahi* lands is Rs. 23-6-0. I will now take the case of *nehri* lands. Seed is valued at Rs. 1-10-0, ploughing Rs. 12, watering *abiana* in this case, Rs. 5-4-0, *Parta nehri* Rs. 3-8-0 plus 0-8-0 as local rate and numberdari. This brings me to a total of Rs. 24-14-0 per acre. Thus

[Chaudhri Riasat Ali.]

a zamindar is a loser by Rs. 11-6-0 for every acre of wheat sown in *chahi* land and by Rs. 12-14-0 for every acre sown in *nehri* lands. The average price at the time of the settlement was Rs. 3 per maund, that is, it was Rs. 30 for an acre. How on earth is it possible to pay the land revenue when there is such an abnormal slump in the market? The stern fact is that the zamindars and the tenants have no money left to pay their land revenue. You must have read in the columns of the "Tribune", dated 19th March 1931, that in the case of the Raja of Kalakankur, his two motor boats, one motor lorry, one motor launch and two elephants with some carriages and horses were attached for realisation of arrears of land revenue amounting to Rs. 38,000. When that is the lot of Rajas it is better to imagine than to describe the plight of the poor average zamindar. Words fail to describe his misery.

Another important point in this connection is this that land revenue is to be paid, after all, out of the profits. The zamindar tills the land with the sole object of earning his livelihood. He is not a philanthropist in the sense that he loves to work so that others might be fed nor is he a slave who must work willy nilly for supplying articles of necessity for others. According to the figures prepared by the honourable Financial Commissioner, Mr. Townsend, when he was the Director of Land Record 8 crores of maunds was the production of wheat in this province. According to the rates then prevailing it was worth Rs. 40 crores. It is now worth only Rs. 12 crores. The land revenue which was then paid out of Rs. 40 crores has now to be paid out of Rs. 12 crores. Mark the world of difference. If this state of things continues the result will be that the zamindar will have to give up his profession of agriculture and take to other professions to earn his livelihood and then there will be a general famine staring us in the face.

The question has also a political aspect, and that is this. You must have read the poster which announced the coming meeting of the sixth session of the Zamindar Provincial League which is to take place on the 4th, 5th and 6th of April at Raewind. Notice of this session has been issued by Sardar Kapur Singh in which invitation has been extended to the zamindars of all classes and creeds. It is annouced that if the just demands of the zamindars are not met they will form themselves into *shahidi jathas.* They propose to organise a reserve of 5,000 strong under the flag of the Punjab Zamindara Dal. The country has just emerged from the misfortune of one political agitation and there is every possibility of its plunging into another, which might involve graver consequences. So practically we are carried from fire into the brimstone. This is not a threat but a mere statement of facts and a timely notice. The zamindar will be the last person to lose his well-earned reputation for loyalty but when he is thrown into the very jaws of death he will strive tooth and nail to come out of it. *Marta kia na karta* . It might be argued now on behalf of the Government benches and we might again be referred to that "well known bugbear" to which the honourable Financial Commissioner referred us once before, *i.e.*, financial stringency. In that connection I want to urge that it is that very "bugbear" which has forced the mover of the resolution to move it. The Government with its immense resources can ward off the attacks oft his "bugbear" more successfully than we on this side of the House can do with our limited means. It will tell more heavily on our purse than that of the Government. Therefore it is rathe

for the Government to entrap this "bugbear" and to put a stop to its activities than it is for us.

One point more. The remission granted in *kharif* did in fact give some relief to the zamindars because, rice, the chief product of that *fasli* was selling at a higher rate than wheat. Moreover zamindars were then able to fall back upon the little capital in their possession, their ornaments and their household articles but the misfortune is that even those things have been sold now towards the payment of land revenue. At that time the credit of the zamindar was intact to a great extent. Now the case is quite the reverse. Now he is head over ears in debt and it is simply impossible for him unless he is granted a remission to the extent that I demand in this amendment, for making both ends meet. According to the figures quoted in Mr. Darling's well-known work "The Punjab Peasant," proprietors not in debt are only to the extent of 17 per cent., while the total agricultural debt of the province is Rs. 31 per acre and on the proprietors' lands it is Rs. 463 per acre. Under these circumstances it will be absolutely difficult for a zamindar unless a remission is granted to get on.

My last point is this, that at the time of the amendment of the Land Revenue Act, I understand, the policy underlying was that the land revenue was not to exceed one-foruth of the net assets. Now what are the net assets? They are the gross income *minus* the expenditure of cultivation. According to the figures which I have given here there is no gross income at all. Then, where lies the justification for taking the whole of this land revenue ?

With these remarks I will press on the House to accept my amendment.

Mr. President: Resolution under consideration, Amendment moved—

"That for the figures '25,' the figures '33 1/3' be substituted."

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders, General) : In the few words which I am going to address the House I deliberately eschew the word "Government" for I think that word has got associations with it which seriously hamper the consideration of questions like the one which we have before us in a dispassionate and detached spirit. Let us constitute ourselves to be the Government and let us sit down to consider how the administration of the province is to be carried on, how the relief which is sought could be given and from what sources that relief is to be met. If the honourable mover had only expressed his desire in a general way, if he had simply asked for some sort of relief to be given whatever be its form and whatever its proportion or magnitude I would have given him my unqualified support. But he has made the specific proposal to which I find it difficult to subscribe without hesitation. This Council in dealing with the general question of financial stringency passed two resolutions only a few days ago. In the one the appointment of a committee was proposed to consider the question of retrenchment and in the other a committee was proposed to consider sources of additional taxation. The second resolution is certainly inconsistent with the resolution that we have now before us. My honourable friend, the mover asks for a reduction of taxation in certain

[D. B. Raja Narendra Nath.]

directions and this very Council in this very session has passed a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee to consider other sources of taxation. On the other hand I do not agree with Mr. Calvert that a reduction of 25 per cent. land revenue would only give very small relief to the landowners while it would be a substantial subtraction from the resources of the State. When a distress of this kind is to be met it may not be possible to give all the necessary relief but even a small relief will be a great help. When there is famine the State starts relief works. That does not mean that everyone who is in need of relief gets the full relief he needs from those works; only a few men get it while there are many others who need some sort of relief but whose case is not met by these relief works. We have also seen that a small reduction was made by the State—here again I would not use the word " Government "—in respect of the water rates payable for the *Kharif* crops and that concession was much appreciated by the zamindars. There is considerable force in the arguments of both the Financial Commissioners that the land revenue paying capacity of the province varies from district to district and that the system of assessment also is different in different districts. In some districts we have the fluctuating system, while in others we have the fixed assessment system. In lands coming under the fixed assessment system, an all round reduction of 25 per cent. of land revenue may not meet the needs of some while it may be unnecessary in others. Although I hold no special brief for owners of canal irrigated lands I cannot help pointing out that there is a recognised way of giving relief to owners of *barani* and *chahi* lands, that is, suspension of revenue which if it became necessary for three consecutive harvests, is followed by remission. But there is no such recognised system of giving relief in the case of water rates. When the water rates were enhanced about three years ago one of the arguments advanced was that the prices of food grains had gone up very high. That argument ceases to have any force now. Therefore an easier way of giving relief and a more just way of giving relief if relief is to be given, would be by a proper consideration of the water rates and by a reconsideration of the enhancements which had been made.

There is the question as to where the money is to come from. After we have just passed a well balanced budget without having recourse to additional taxation, how is this relief to be met? I think there is only one source from which this expenditure can be met and that is by retrenchment. If the Retrenchment Committee is able to reduce the expenditure by a considerable amount, the saving might be utilised in giving some sort of relief to the agriculturists who badly need it, but certainly the income from the additional taxation proposed is not to be used for this purpose. In *rabi* 1928 a large remission was given to the zamindars on account of the loss caused by the frost. If the finances of the province permit, some relief in that way may be granted to the zamindars even now, but I cannot say what percentage of land revenue should be remitted. The first thing to be considered is where the money is to come from. Without supporting the resolution as it stands I sit down with these words of sympathy for the object which underlies it and I ask my friend not to press the resolution any further but to be content with the expression of sympathy which has been given by the two expert advisors of the Government.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: I had given up all idea of speaking on this resolution though originally I had a mind to speak in order to reply to some of the points raised by Mr. Calvert. However I feel I should say a few words in reply to the speech made by the honourable member who has just sat down. He said that if the resolution had been so worded as to ask for some reasonable relief to the zamindars it would have had his unqualified support and sympathy. But I am sure if the resolution had asked for " some reasonable relief " the Raja Sahib would have got up and said that the resolution was absolutely meaningless, indefinite, vague and so on, and that such a vague proposal should not receive any support from any section of the House. That would have been his argument. Here is a resolution asking for a reremission of 25 per cent. of land revenue ; it is sought to be amended by increasing the remission to 33⅓ per cent. It would have been quite reasonable for the Raja Sahib to have supported one of these propositions or to have withheld his support altogether on some grounds other than the one put forward by him. But unfortunately it is the habit of the members of that section of the House to get up and say they cannot support the resolution because it is badly worded.

Mr. President : The honourable member would not please make any personal remarks.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I am not making any personal remark. I am only referring to the consistent course of conduct followed by that section of the House.

Mr. President : It is a criticism, if I may say so, of a certain alleged course of conduct.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : It is a criticism of the consistent course of conduct which has been followed by one section of the House towards any proposal brought forward by my section of the House bearing on the welfare of the zamindar classes.

The Raja Sahib argued that we should all try to place ourselves in the position of Government and imagine how the task of the Government of the province could be carried on if this remission was given. If this argument were to stand in the way of giving any relief to the zamindar. I am afraid he cannot hope for any remission however helpless his condition may be. This resolution does not ask for any recurring relief, any permanent lowering of the water rates or land revenue. It confines itself to a reduction of 25 or 33 per cent. of the land revenue throughout the province for the *rabi* crop only. In this case there is no question of the administration of this Government coming to a standstill. As the Honourable Finance Member remarked in his budget speech Government has weathered even worse storms than this in the past. I am quite sure if the Government gave a remission of 25 or 33 per cent. of land revenue just for the *rabi* crop, the administration will not come to a standstill. They will still be able to carry on the administration. The only question is whether the circumstances are such that the zamindars are really in need of the relief asked for. I am absolutely sure that the zamindar does stand in need of help and sympathy—of practical help and

[R. B. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]
sympathy, not sympathy merely confined to words. It has been said over and over again by many honourable members that the zamindar has exhausted all his resources—his property, his ornaments and his credit of all kinds. He has no cattle to sell, no ornaments to pawn and he cannot raise loans by any means. He is no longer in a position to pay land revenue by any of these means as he has been doing in the past. Owing to the abnormal circumstances of the present year it is only just and reasonable that the Government should afford some relief, which has been placed by this resolution at 25 or 33 per cent. of land revenue. This relief should be granted to the zamindar if he is not to be compelled to say he cannot pay.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah [Lahore (Muhammadan) Rural] (*Urdu*): Sir, I have risen to reply briefly to the speech made by the honourable the Financial Commissioner. I respectfully beg to submit that we have often heard the Government say that they have full sympathy with the zamindar in his present distress. But, Sir, this lip sympathy is not at all sufficient. So long as Government do not take practical steps to relieve the zamindars of their present sufferings, mere words of sympathy would not do. The honourable the Financial Commissioner has said that it is a very bold assertion on my part when I say that our system of land revenue is most harsh and is nowhere to be found in the whole world. Will the honourable the Financial Commissioner kindly state if that assertion of mine which in his opinion is a very bold one is incorrect? Can he prove that in any part of the world the zamindar is bound to pay land revenue irrespective of the fact whether he derives any benefit from his land or not or whether he makes any income out of it or not? He has remarked that in the Hissar district there are many villages where no *rabi* crops are grown. Therefore, 25 per cent. remission will not help the zamindars living in those villages. I do not mean to say that the land tax should be totally remitted. What I submit is that you may tax the zamindars according to the income derived by them from their lands.

Besides, the honourable the Financial Commissioner has stated that so far as he is aware the tenants have never deserted lands. In reply to this I ask, how could they desert lands when they are unable to do any other work? They starve but they cannot give up their present occupation. The people of Hissar go to other places for work. But they come back to their homes after three or four years. It does not mean that agriculture is very paying, but the fact is that they are unable to do anything else. Again, the honourable the Financial Commissioner said that even if the proposed reduction is made every zamindar who pays Rs. 7-8-0, thereby will save only Re. 1-10-0 or at the most Rs. 2. It may be very little from his point of view, but it will be great help to the zamindar. Zamindars who appeared before the Education Committee to give evidence were asked whether they would like a tax of Rs. 2 per family for purposes of education. All of them said that it was too much. The sum of Rs. 2, in your or my pocket may not mean anything, but they do not look on Rs. 2 as an insignificant amount. For them even Rs. 1-10-0 is a big sum. When we demand 35 per cent. reduction you say that it is too much and when we demand the present concession you say it is too little. Then please tell us

which is the third course left for us. It was asked, why did we not oppose the Land Revenue Bill when it was introduced in this House? I submit that at that time we could not discuss the principles underlying the present system of land revenue. It was not discussed whether the land revenue be paid in cash or in kind. The system of land revenue was not under discussion then. I would respectfully say a word to the Honourable the Revenue Member in this respect. The Financial Commissioner has said, let the time of the *rabi* crops come; at that time we shall see the rates and lay down a formula which will give relief to the zamindars. But if general remission is not given and formulæ are found the result would be that most of the relief will go to those officers who are responsible for the distribution of relief funds amongst the suffering zamindars. The poor people will not benefit much by it.

With these words, I commend this resolution again for the acceptance of the House.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) (*Urdu*): Sir, with your permission, I should like to make a few brief observations concerning the resolution which is now before the House. I have purposely chosen to address the House in Urdu so that those zamindar members who are not conversant with English may also be able to follow me. Although it is possible to meet every one of the arguments put forward by the various speakers by sheer force of logic, still I do not intend to counter them on that basis. Sir, it is a matter for pleasure that the mover of this resolution and the other speakers have shown commendable moderation in putting forward their case. I do not propose to refute their arguments as the various points raised during the debate have already been fully answered by the honourable the Financial Commissioners; nor do I propose to make a lengthy speech. The little that I have to say will be in the capacity of a zamindar, and not as a bureaucrat. Being a zamindar myself, my sympathy naturally is with them in their present difficulties. One or two members have said that Government is not fully aware of the situation. This assertion is wholly incorrect. On the contrary, Government is in a far better position than any of the members in this House, to keep in touch with the people even in the remotest parts of the province, and of knowing their real condition. Being a zamindar myself, I have the advantage of knowing both the official as well as the non-official point of view, and am consequently in a far better position than the members on the opposite benches to know and judge the actual conditions prevailing in the province. I can assure you that the Government is fully aware of the condition of the zamindars and is conscious of their difficulties due to the present economic depression; not only that but that they can fully rely on the sympathy and support of the Government in their troubles.

As I have already said, I have no intention of referring in detail to the arguments adduced during the course of the debate by the various members. But as a zamindar I consider it my duty to draw the attention of the zamindar members in particular to some remarks made by the honourable member from Lyallpur and the honourable member representing the Gujranwala Rural Muslim Constituency. The honourable member from Lyallpur during the course of his speech, which I must say was somewhat lacking

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]
in moderation, remarked—presumably with the object of giving additional force to his arguments—that if the Government did not meet his demands the rural population may have to resort to Bolshevik methods in order to get their grievances redressed. I believe that he used these words merely to make his speech sound more vigorous and forceful; and I am sure that in the heat of the moment he did not realize their significance and impropriety. He probably forgot that there was a possibility of his words being published through the press and being misconstrued and misinterpretted by those who are not friendly towards the zamindars. Such effusions and mistakes—which we are all liable to make at times—have a knack of coming back to roost, and sometimes lead to endless trouble. The Punjab peasant is much too sensible to be swayed by Bolshevik tendencies; but if, God forbid, the cult of Bolshevism finds its way into this province, let me warn my honourable friend that the big zamindars and the honourable members sitting on the opposite benches will be the first to suffer. The proletariat, if it gets out of hands, will naturally, to begin with, concentrate its attention on the big land-owner, who, according to the Bolshevik doctrine, has no right to live in comfort and luxury in palatial buildings, or to move about in luxurious cars and spend his time in idleness surrounded by all the amenities and luxuries of life, while his tenants and others sweat in the fields and the villages to provide them with funds and produce, without which their comfortable and luxurious existence would be impossible. Therefore, apart from other reasons, their own safety demands that they should not do or say anything which may facilitate the work of mischief-mongers who are anxious to sow the seed of discontent with a view to create dissensions and chaos in the province. The honourable member should realize that such indiscreet remarks, instead of strengthening his arguments, are on the contrary likely to weaken his case and may in addition do incalculable harm to the class whose interest it is his duty to safeguard.

(*A voice*: مرگ انبوہ جشنے دارد Death with freinds is a festival).

Again, the honourable member from Gujranwala mentioned that the Zamindar Sabha has issued posters that unless things improve the *Sabha* will organise *Shahidi Jathas* which will go about the countryside preaching against the Government. I am confident that no member of this House, to whichever section he may belong, will approve or countenance this misguided move. I hope the Zamindara League which, I understand, still consists of the real representatives of the zamindars of this province and was formed with the object of safeguarding their interest will not only denounce, but also take active steps to counteract any mischievous propaganda which the so-called well-wishers of zamindars, who pose as their friends, but are in reality anything but friendly to them, might try to set on foot. I hope that the honourable member from Gujranwala as also the other zamindar members and the Zamindara League will take concerted action to oppose and denounce any effort which may be made by mischief-mongers to adopt unconstitutional methods. My friend, the honourable the Financial Commissioner, very pertinently remarked in the course of his speech that after a year or so the responsibility for the administration in this province will devolve upon the majority party in this House. The zamindars, who constitute the majority of the population in the province,

will naturally return the largest number of members to the Legislature and will therefore be advantageously placed as compared with others in the matter of forming a Ministry. It is therefore all the more necessary that they should realize their responsibility and refrain from giving expression to hasty or indiscreet remarks which might later be cited against them.

So far as the resolution is concerned, I again wish to assure you that Government is no less anxious than the zamindars themselves. It has done its best in the past and is doing its best now, and will continue to do its best in future to ameliorate their condition. The present depression is affecting every class and section of the people and their pockets, including my own. As I have already said, Sir, the Government's attitude towards this resolution is not hostile. On the contrary, we have every sympathy with the motives which have actuated the honourable mover to bring forward this resolution. I, however, wish to point out that it is premature and, in view of the sypmathetic attitude of the Government both in the past and now, towards the zamindars, even unnecessary. The relief demanded by the honourable mover may be either too much or too little when the next *rabi* is harvested. The rapid change and fall in prices which we witnessed last year make it difficult to anticipate or visualize the conditions two or three months hence.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : You may give more.

The Honourable Capatain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The resolution seeks to secure a remission of 25 per cent. on all *rabi* crops. While it may be easy to apply it to the canal-irrigated areas, it would be extremely difficult to compute the amount of remission in the *barani* areas where there is fixed assessment and where in some cases *kharif* and *rabi* instalments are unevenly distributed. Again, in some parts of the province, like Hissar, very little *rabi* is sown and consequently the revenue demand for *kharif* is much larger than that for *rabi*. If relief is to be given it must be so distributed as not to exclude those who stand in greater need of it as compared with others. In view of the fact, which is well known to you as well as to the zamindar members, that Government has never failed to come to the rescue of the zamindars whenever they have needed help, it was hardly necessary for the honourable mover to bring forward this motion. I however realize that it is sometimes necessary for the members to table motions with a view to consolidate their position with their constituents, but at the same time it is equally their duty to keep their constituency informed of the action of the Government and the generous help which it has been giving from time to time with a view to help the zamindars in tiding over their difficulties.

Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah : This resolution will only strengthen your hands.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : I am much obliged to the honourable member for his remark; but I wish to assure him that Government needs no incentive in the matter of relief to the zamindars. So long as a zamindar member is there to represent you and plead your cause, you should have no apprehensions or doubts with regard

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to the *bona fides* of Government. Government has always been generously helping the zamindar in the past and if the present unfortunate economic depression continues, it will not fail to come to their rescue again by affording such relief as may be necessary.

6 P.M.

Mr. President : Resolution under consideration, amendment moved—

"That for the figures '25' the figures '33⅓' be substituted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a general remission of 33⅓ per cent on land revenue be granted on all the *rabi* crops of 1931."

The motion was carried.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES.

Secretary : The Council will now proceed to the elections to the several committees. Three representatives to serve on the North-Western Railway Advisory Committee will first be elected. Voting cards with the names of members nominated for the purpose will be distributed to members and members will duly mark their vote. The cards will be collected, the votes counted and the results announced immediately.

Next, four representatives for the Forest Board will be elected. Honourable members are aware that the voting is by the single transferable system and when ballot papers are distributed to them, they are to mark their order of preference therein and put them into the box on the table. The results will be announced in due course.

At this stage the official members may retire if they like and the Council will proceed to the election of the Standing Committees. Ballot papers for the purpose will be distributed to non-official members and honourable members will duly mark their order of preference on them and put the papers so marked in the ballot box. The results will be communicated to honourable members when they are ready.

RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Mr. President : As a result of voting the following members have been elected members of the Railway Advisory Committee :—

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal for Trade.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq for Industries.

Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan for Agriculture.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Wednesday, the 25th March 1931.

Estimated profit and loss account of a zamindar owning one square of land in the district of Lyallpur for the rabi crop of 1931.—Vide *page* 744 ante.

Expenditure.	Dr.	Income.		Cr.
1. Wheat		1. Wheat—		Mds.
		11 acres at 15 maunds per acre.		165
		Less :—		
		Cutting 1/12th ..	14	
		Winnowing 2 seers per maund ..	8	
		Seed 24 seers per acre	6	
		Kamins :—		
		Carpenter, Blacksmith *Nai*, *Dhobi*, *Mochi*, Potter, Priest, 1 maund each ..	7	
		Mehtar ..	4	
		Mashki ..	2	
		Chaukidar, *Vagari* ..	1	
				42
		Balance ..		123
Land revenue *abiana*, *swa* etc. 11 acres at Rs. 14 per acre ..	154 0 0	123 maunds at Rs. 1-12-0 per maund ..		215 0 0
		Bhusa—248 maunds half is sold ..		20 0 0
2. Gram		2. Gram—		
		2 acres at 14 maunds per acre ..	28	
		Less cutting winnowing	4	
			24	
Land revenue, *abiana*, etc., 2 acres at Rs. 14 per acre ..	28 0 0	Half used up as fodder 12 maunds at Rs. 2-4-0 per maund ..		27 0 0
3. Fodder— Land revenue, *abiana*, etc., 2 acres at Rs. 10 per acre ..	20 0 0	3. Fodder— 2 acres all used up ..		..
4. *Toria*— Land revenue, *abiana*, etc., 2 acres at Rs. 14 per acre ..	28 0 0	4. *Toria*— Income used up in defraying *kharif* revenue		..
5. Labour— 2 labourers at Rs.6 per mensem for 6 months ..	72 0			
6. Interest and depreciation on bullocks, implements and renewals for 6 months ..	122 0 0	By Balance ..		141 12 0
Total ..	424 0 0			424 0 0
Total Balance ..	141 12 0			

Clearly there will be deficit balance of Rs. 141-12-0 per square.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

1st SESSION OF THE 4th PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 25th March 1931.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at 2 P.M. of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Recruitment of Extra Assistant Commissioners.

***514. Sardar Jawahar Singh, Dhillon:** Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government ordered to recruit no Extra Assistant Commissioners in 1930 on Registers A-I and A-II;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that the number of appointments earmarked for Register A-II is already the minimum of all registers;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that there is a general impression that the orders referred to in part (*a*) above were passed as a possible result of over-recruitment of Register C candidates;

(*d*) whether it is also a fact that posting of other Register candidates has been withheld until a certain batch of " C " candidates is first provided for;

(*e*) if so, what is the reason for taking all these special measures for "C" candidates to the prejudice of Departmental candidates;

(*f*) whether Government intend to nominate any caudidates for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner on Register A-II this year?

Mr. F. H. Puckle: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, but the existing appointments exceed the number fixed for Register A-II.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) It is suspended till all the candidates accepted in 1929 are posted out.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(*f*) No decision has been made.

Peons and Piadas.

***515. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state in respect of peons and piadas working under the District Judge, Shahpur, at Sargodha, and serving in civil courts of the Jhang and Shahpur districts, respectively;

(*a*) their number in 1921 and 1930;

[Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.]

(b) the proportion of Muslims and non-Muslims in the cadre in the aforesaid two years ;

(c) if the proportion of Muslims be very small, what steps the Government proposes to make up this disparity ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

CIVIL COURTS ESTABLISHMENT, SHAHPUR.

***516. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(a) the number of civil court readers, bailiffs, ahlmads, within the jurisdiction of District Judge, Shahpur at Sargodha in 1921 and 1930 ;

(b) the proportion of Muslims and non-Muslims in this cadre in the aforesaid two years (for the Jhang and Shahpur districts respectively) ;

(c) if the Muslim proportion be very small, how the Government intends to make up the deficiency ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

CIVIL COURTS ESTABLISHMENT OF SHAHPUR AND JHANG DISTRICTS.

***517. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Finance Mem ber kindly state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims accepted candidates for employment in the civil courts of Jhang and Shahpur districts during the last five years ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

MUSLIM SENIOR SUB-JUDGES AT JHANG.

***518. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(a) the number of Muslim senior sub-judges posted at Jhang and their period of stay there during the last 20 years ;

(b) if the number be very small as compared with that of non-Muslim senior sub-judges posted there during the aforesaid period whether Government intends to take any steps to post a Muslim senior sub-judge in a predominantly Muslim district like Jhang ?

Mr. F. H. Puckle : The honourable member is referred to the reply given to his starred question No. 2565[1] asked in November 1929.

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[1]Volume XIV, page 324.

SALE OF AGRICULTURISTS' LANDS.

***519. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the High Court at Lahore ruled in a case that agricultural land could be sold in insolvency proceedings against a statutory agriculturist which was subsequently reversed by a full bench of the same court ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that during the period between the two rulings very many agricultural lands were sold by order of the civil or insolvency courts throughout the province ;

(*c*) if so, whether the Government will please lay on the table a statement showing the extent of such land sold by order of courts in each district of the province ;

(*d*) whether Government proposes to take any steps for restoring to the owners the lands thus sold or alienated, and if so, what ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It is regretted that the answer is not ready. The information asked for by the honourable member is being collected, and will be communicated to him in due course.

JHANG MUSLIM STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS FOR GAZETTED POSTS IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

***520. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) the names and number of Muslims of Jhang district belonging to the statutory agriculturists, who were directly taken in a gazetted post in the Police Department during the last 25 years ;

(*b*) if there be none of Jhang Muslim statutory agriculturist directly recruited for a gazetted post in the Police Department for the said period, what steps the Government intends to remove this grievance of this class ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) No Muslim of Jhang district was directly appointed to a gazetted post in the Police Department during the last 25 years.

(*b*) Direct appointments to the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police (Imperial Police Service) are made by competitive examination and to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (Provincial Police Service) by selection after a careful consideration of the merits and claims of the candidates by a Selection Board.

Any Jhang Muslim statutory agriculturist with the requisite educational qualifications may compete, so this class does not labour under any grievance in this connection.

MURDERS AT "THATTA SARGANA", JHANG DISTRICT.

***521. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) the date and the number of murders which took place at "Thatta Sargana" in Jhang district last year;

(*b*) the date when the Superintendent, Police, visited the place, in connection with the investigation proceedings carried on there;

(*c*) whether the Superintendent, Police, visited some other places during the intervening period and the nature of work, which compelled him not to visit "Thatta Sargana" when the crime was enacted there?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) Two counter cases of murder were reported from village Thatta Sargana in Jhang district, on 20th June 1930.

(*b*) 4th July 1930. The District Inspector of Police and the Deputy Superintendent had already been there.

(*c*) Yes. The Superintendent of Police could not visit Thatta Sargana earlier owing to the investigation of other important and urgent cases.

FOOT-CONSTABLES IN JHANG DISTRICT POLICE.

***522. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) the number of foot-constables in the Jhang district police who were given the selection grade since January 1930 up-to-date;

(*b*) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims among them;

(*c*) if the number of Muslims who received their selection grade promotions be small or not in accordance with their proportion in the force, what are the reasons for not giving them their due share in the aforesaid grade?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (*a*) 23.

(*b*) 14 Muslims; 9 Non-Muslims.

(*c*) Promotion to the selection grade is not made according to communal percentages but is governed by Police Rules 13·1 and 13·5.

EXECUTIVE AND ASSISTANT ENGINEERS ON LOWER JHELUM CANAL.

***523. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Executive and Assistant Engineers on the Lower Jhelum Canal specifying the number of Muslim and non-Muslim engineers and the duties assigned to the Muslim engineers;

(*b*) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim subordinates in the engineering branch in the Circle;

(*c*) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim clerical staff in accounts and general branches of this circle?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*)—

Service and grade.	Muslims.	Non-Muslims.	Totals.
Executive Engineers (substantive and officiating)	..	5	5
Assistant Executive Engineers ..	..	3	3
Assistant Engineers	2	8	10
Temporary Engineers	1	1	2
Total ..	3	17	20

Two Muslims are employed as Sub-Divisional Officers and one is employed on special work and under training.

(*b*) Muslims 23 and non-Muslims 51.

(*c*) Muslims 21 and non-Muslims 43.

MUSLIM EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS ON LOWER JHELUM CANAL.

***524. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been no Muslim Executive Engineer for the last twelve years on the Lower Jhelum Canal ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : Yes.

MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

***525. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued orders to increase the number of Muslim employees in the Irrigation Department to 50 per cent.;

(*b*) if so, what steps have so far been taken in compliance with these orders ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Steps are being taken in accordance with the seven letters, copies of which are placed on the table and paragraph V of Article 1·3, Irrigation Manual of Orders.

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

ENCLOSURE I.

Letter No. 10036—56-*E.I., dated 27th November* 1930, *from the Secretary to Government. Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to all Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Branch, Punjab, and Executive Engineers, Independent Divisions.*

I AM directed to refer to this office letter No. 0373—0394-E.I., dated 28th May 1930, and to this office letter No. 02598—02620-E. I., dated 27th July 1929, and to say that in submitting rolls of Temporary Subordinates, Grade A, or officiating Overseers, for promotion to the Subordinate Engineering Service, the men recommended must, wherever feasible, be in the proportion of 50 per cent. Muslims and 50 per cent. non-Muslims. In case you find that it is not feasible to do this, you must, in submitting your rolls, state the reasons why it is not feasible.

ENCLOSURE II.

Letter No. 10057—78-*E.I., dated 27th November* 1930, *from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to all Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Branch, Punjab, and Executive Engineers, Independent Divisions.*

I AM directed to refer to this office letter No. 02598—02620-E.I., dated 27th July 1929, and to invite attention to the fact that temporary establishments under your control have generally a proportion of Muslims considerably below that laid down.

2. At the present time, due to the closing down of various temporary divisions and sub-divisions, and due to retrenchment on account of financial stringency, reductions are being made in temporary establishments. Until such time as the proportion of Muslims in *any* class of temporary establishment exceeds the proportion of 50 per cent. laid down, I am directed to instruct that in making reductions only non-Muslims should be discharged, provided that the Muslims retained are duly qualified and have satisfactory records of service.

3. These instructions will not apply to Muslim temporary subordinates discharged under the orders contained in this office letter No. 04022—04039-E.I., dated 7th October 1930, on account of their not having the necessary technical qualifications.

ENCLOSURE III.

Letter No. 923-*E.I., dated 22nd January* 1930, *from the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works, Punjab, to the Principal, Government School of Engineering, Rasul.*

IN reply to your letter No. 60-T.-3158, dated 11th December 1929, I have the honour to say that the number of qualified students required from the next batch, who will be available about 1st February 1930, is the maximum number you can supply, but not in excess of 32, and limited by the undernoted conditions :—

(*a*) Sixty per cent. are to be Agriculturists (belonging to notified Agriculturists' tribes).

(*b*) Fifty per cent. are to be Muslims and 50 per cent. non-Muslims. (This must be strictly adhered to.)

2. Orders as to their posting will be issued when their names with order of standing and their homes have been communicated to this office.

ENCLOSURE IV.

Letter No. 10720—41-*E.I., dated 10th December* 1930, *from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to all Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Branch, Punjab, and Executive Engineers, Independent Divisions.*

I AM directed to refer to this office letter No. 10057—78-E.I., dated the 27th November 1930, and to say that for the purposes of the instructions contained in that letter " Temporary Establishment " should be taken to mean establishment who have no substantive appointment. For the purposes of the instructions contained in that letter officiating clerks should be classed along with temporary clerks, officiating Overseers should be classed along with temporary Subordinates, &c.

ENCLOSURE V.

Letter No. 479—99-E.I., dated 13th January 1931, from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to all Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Branch, Punjab, and Executive Engineers, Independent Divisions.

In continuation of this office letter No. 10036—56-E.I., dated the 27th November 1930, I am directed to say that in submitting rolls of temporary Clerks, temporary Draftsmen and temporary Tracers who are recommended for appointment to permanent establishment, the men recommended must, wherever feasible, be in the proportion of 50 per cent. Muslims and 50 per cent. non-Muslims. In case you find that it is not feasible to do this, you must, in submitting your rolls, state the reasons why it is not feasible.

ENCLOSURE VI.

Letter No. 4931—53-E.I., dated 2nd May 1929, from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to all Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Branch, Punjab, and Executive Engineers, Independent Divisions.

I am directed to say that fresh recruitment in the following classes of establishment should be on the basis of at least 50 per cent. Muslims :—

(a) Patwari.
(b) Munshi.
(c) Artificer.
(d) Signaller.
(e) Clerk.

2. The recruitment of (a) Patwaris and (b) Munshis should further be on the basis of at least 60 per cent. Agriculturists (Muslims and non-Muslims combined) on the whole establishment.

3. The educational qualifications already laid down for Patwaris, Munshis, Signallers and Clerks will still remain the same.

ENCLOSURE VII.

Letter No. 02598—2620-E.I., dated 27th July 1929, from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to all Superintending Engineers, Irrigation Branch, Punjab, and Executive Engineers, Independent Divisions.

In continuation of this office letter No. 4931—53-E.I., dated the 2nd May 1929, I am directed to say that fresh recruitment of temporary subordinates should be made on the basis of 50 per cent. Muslims and 50 per cent. non-Muslims.

2. The technical qualifications already laid down for temporary Subordinates will still remain the same.

Patwaris and Munshis in Rasul division.

***526. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some patwaris and munshis were dismissed for incorrect and fraudulent entries made in the *khasras* in Rasul division ;

(b) how far the Deputy Collector was responsible for the making of these entries ;

(c) what action, if any, has been taken against the Deputy Collector ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) The Deputy Collector was not responsible for the fraudulent entries in the *khasras* which occasioned the dismissal of the patwaris.

(c) The Deputy Collector's increment has been stopped for 1 year, and he has been reduced 4 places on the seniority list.

REMODELLING OF MITHA LAK DISTRIBUTARY.

***527. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the remodelling of Mitha Lak distributary has been taken in hand ;

(*b*) if so, what was its original estimate ;

(*c*) what amount has actually been spent on it ;

(*d*) what were the figures of irrigation on the distributary in the year before remodelling and following it ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) Yes, and completed.

(*b*) Rs. 55,812.

(*c*) Rs. 54,594.

	Acres.
(*d*) Year before remodelling (1929-30)	37,503
Year after remodelling (1930-31 including current *rabi*)	45,437

HEAD WORKS AT RASUL.

***528. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what was the original estimate of the repairs of Head Works at Rasul after the flood of 1928-29 and what amount has actually been spent so far ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the repairs are yet incomplete ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (*a*) No comprehensive estimate of the repairs to Rasul Head Works after the flood of 1928-29 was prepared, the expenditure being controlled by a number of small estimates which were prepared for different parts of the work as it progressed. The total expenditure was approximately 23 lakhs.

(*b*) The repairs were completed in the 1929-30 working season. The work at present in progress is remodelling work undertaken to provide against a similar disaster in the future.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION OF PRINCIPAL, GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, JHANG.

***529. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state whether it is a fact that a 2nd year student of the Government College, Jhang, was found guilty of a gross misconduct and that instead of taking any appropriate action against him, the Principal simply allowed him to withdraw his name from the College rolls ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that another student of the first year who is alleged to have used improper language against the Superintendent of the Boarding House, Government College, Jhang, was rusticated by the Principal?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, what were the reasons which led the Principal to administer such unequal punishment?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The information is being collected and a reply will be sent to the honourable member when ready.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO PRINCIPAL, GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, JHANG.

***530. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) the sum of money which the Principal of the Government College, Jhang, is being paid as the rent for the house in which he resides at present;

(*b*) whether a member of the College staff lives in the same house and pays a considerable portion of the monthly rent to the Principal;

(*c*) the actual amount which the Principal has to pay to the owner of the house;

(*d*) if the actual amount being paid by the Principal be less than what he actually gets from the Department, whether there is any reason why he should not be paid only what he actually pays by way of rent;

(*e*) the reason why the Principal has been over-charging the Government?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Inquiries are being made and a reply will be sent to the honourable member when ready.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, JHANG.

***531. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) the total number of the students communitywise studying at the Government College, Jhang, at the time Rana Abdul Hamid Khan made over the charge to Mr. Nayyer (the present Principal);

(*b*) the number of the Muslim students who belong to the ***bonâ fide*** agriculturist classes of the district;

(*c*) the total number of students communitywise at present in the College;

(*d*) the number at present of the students who belong to the ***bonâ fide*** agriculturist classes of the Jhang district;

[Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.]

(e) if the proportion of the Muslim students belonging to the *boná fide* agriculturist classes of the district be very small, the reasons for the same and whether the Principal took any special steps to make the College attractive enough for them ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The information is being collected and a reply will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

POST MATRIC CLASS, GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, JHANG.

***532. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(a) how many boys sought admission to the Post Matric Class attached to the Government College, Jhang, in 1930-31 ;

(b) how many were admitted communitywise;

(c) if the number of Muslim admitted be very low, reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

FEE CONCESSION IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, JHANG.

***533. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(a) the number of students (communitywise) who have been enjoying fee concession during 1929-30 and 1930-31 in the Government College, Jhang ;

(b) whether in granting these concessions the Principal kept in view the provisions of Article 18 of Chapter 4 of Punjab Education Code ; if not, why not ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Enquiries are being made and a reply will be sent to the honourable member when ready.

STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AMONG POLICE IN JHANG DISTRICT.

***534. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) the number (communitywise) of the Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables of police in Jhang district ;

(b) how many of them belong to the Statutory Agriculturist tribe ;

(c) the number and rank (communitywise) of the Police Officer incharge of police stations in the Jhang district ;

(d) if the number of Muslims in appointments mentioned in (a) and (c) and in other special posts on which police officers are employed be smaller than their proportion in the police force of the district, the reasons for the same and the steps which Government proposes to take to increase their number ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*d*) The figures are not disproportionate.

Statement.

Parts (*a*) and (*b*).

Appointments.	Muslims.		Hindus.		Sikhs.		Vacant.
	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.	Agriculturists.	Non-Agriculturists.	Agriculturists	Non-Agriculturists.	
Sub-Inspectors ..	9	3	2	1	2	..	2
Assistant Sub-Inspectors ..	4	..	1	..	2	..	2
Head Constables ..	36	18	..	15	7	..	1

(*c*) Nine Sub-Inspectors and 3 Assistant Sub-Inspectors are in charge of police stations of whom two are Hindus, 7 Muhammadans and 3 Sikhs.

HAVELI PROJECT.

***535. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) the stage at which the Haveli Project Scheme stands at present;

(*b*) whether there is any likelihood of this project being taken in hand so far as the actual construction of the project is concerned in the near future?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The skeleton project is under preparation and the work well advanced. It should be ready for consideration by Government next autumn.

(*b*) This cannot be replied to until the project is framed and examined.

PURCHASE MONEY OF GOVERNMENT SALES OF LANDS IN JHANG DISTRICT.

***536. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether there are many defaulters amongst the purchasers of the Government lands, which were sold during the last settlement in Jhang district;

(*b*) whether there were any proposals for extending the number of instalments, and their period as well;

(*c*) if so, whether Government has reached any decision on this and if not, when is a decision likely to be arrived at?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL AT JHANG.

***537. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether there is no Government building for the school and the boarding-house of the Government High School at Jhang ;

(*b*) whether some houses are taken on rent from some private owners ;

(*c*) whether the owners of these houses require the house for themselves and have approached the school authorities several times to vacate the houses ;

(*d*) if so, what steps the Government intends to take to vacate these houses and to construct a building for the school and its boarding house ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member presumably means the girls school. If so, the answer is as follows :—

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Government has done its best to find another house or houses suitable for a girls school, but has failed in the attempt. As a last resource Government is now considering the possibility of shifting the school to a public building being used as an office by another department. If no suitable arrangements can be made it may be necessary to close the school or to move it to some other place. In the existing financial stringency it is not possible to construct new Government buildings for the school.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

CREMATION OF BHAGAT SINGH, RAJGURU AND SUKHDEV.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal : (1) Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state the reasons for cremating the dead bodies of Rajguru, Sukhdev and Bhagat Singh on the banks of the river Sutlej ?

(2) Why were the dead bodies not given to the relations ?

(3) Who was in charge of the cremation ?

(4) Who performed the funeral rites ?

(5) How and to what extent were those rites performed ?

(6) What fuel was used and in what quantities ?

(7) How long did the entire cremation take ?

(8) Were the bodies cut into pieces before cremation ?

(9) What was done with the remains and were the bodies completely burnt or not ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The statement that is about to be published is as follows :—

As various false statements have received currency in the press and elsewhere regarding the disposal of the bodies of Bhagat Singh, Sukh Dev and Rajguru, the following statement of the actual facts is published for information :—

" The bodies were removed from the Central Jail, Lahore, in a lorry at about 8-30 P.M. on the 23rd of March, the lorry being accompanied by two other lorries carrying a police escort and two more loaded with wood for fuel. The convoy of five lorries proceeded to a point on the banks of the Sutlej close to the Kaiser-i-Hind bridge. It was joined by an *acharaj* and a *granthi* near Ganda Singhwala. The funeral pyre was lighted at 11.45 P.M., and at about 4 A.M. it had sufficiently died down to enable the ashes to be removed. After consultation with the priests the ashes were carefully collected at 4 A.M. on the 24th and conveyed in a lorry to the centre bay of the Lahore Ferozepore bridge where they were deposited in the down stream of the Sutlej at 5-45 A.M. The bodies were completely consumed and none of the remains were left behind. The appropriate religious ceremonies were performed in full by the *granthi* and the *acharaj* above mentioned.

" The statement that the bodies were dismembered before cremation is entirely false. It is also entirely untrue that any troops, British or Indian, accompanied the convoy.

" The announcement, made in Lahore city at about 1 A.M. on the 24th in response to enquiries, that the cremation had taken place according to Hindu and Sikh rites and that the ashes had been thrown into the Sutlej was based on knowledge of the arrangements which had been concerted and which were in fact duly carried out.

" The bodies of the prisoners were in accordance with the provisions of the Jail Manual not handed over to the relatives as it was anticipated that the funeral would be made the occasion for a demonstration calculated to disturb the public tranquillity. "

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Subordinates in the East Circle of Lower Chenab Canal.

85. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the number of Muslims out of the total number of subordinates (overseers and sub-overseers) in the East Circle of Lower Chenab Canal ;

(*b*) whether five temporary subordinates have been served with notice dispensing with their services and out of these two are Muhammadan agriculturists ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware that these two Muslim agriculturists are qualified overseers from the Government School of Engineering, Rasul ;

(*d*) whether there are any unqualified non-Muslims and some of them non-agriculturists who were recommended for reduction by their Executive Engineers but have been retained in preference to these Muslim agriculturists ;

(*e*) if so, whether Government intends to take any action in the matter ?

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) 11 out of a total of 57 permanent and temporary subordinates including 2 on leave and 1 in Sub-Divisional charge.

(*b*) Yes.

[Hon. Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.]

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) None such were recommended by their Executive Engineers for discharge but one was discharged by the Superintending Engineer.

(*e*) Enquiries are being made to ensure that the orders issued with regard to this matter are being carried out.

POULTRY FARM AT GURDASP R.

86. Sardar Bishan Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a large sum of money was embezzled in the poultry farm at Gurdaspur ;

(*b*) who was in charge of the poultry farm when the embezzlement occurred ;

(*c*) what was the amount of embezzlement and when it was detected ;

(*d*) who was responsible for it and what action, if any, has been taken against him ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) A considerable sum seems to be missing but the inquiry is not yet complete.

(*b*) Mr. and Mrs. Harrop independently at first, and afterwards under supervision of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, at Gurdaspur.

(*c*) The amount has not yet been determined. It was Mrs. Harrop who first drew attention to the matter.

(*d*) The matter is *sub-judice.*

APPOINTMENT OF MR. FARMER AS HEAD ASSISTANT IN THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS.

87. Lala Chetan Anand : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Farmer, a clerk in the Secretariat on Rs. 80 per mensem has been appointed Head Assistant in the office of Inspector-General of Prisons in the grade of Rs. 150—10—350 ;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that there are already clerks in Inspector-General of Prisons' office in the grade of Rs. 100—200 eligible for the appointment ;

(*c*) whether the Government is also aware that one of the clerks mentioned in (*b*) above officiated as Head Assistant for a month and his work was found satisfactory ;

(*d*) what are the special qualifications for which Mr. Farmer has been appointed to the post in preference to Indian clerks in Inspector-General's office who are more experienced and drawing higher initial salary than Mr. Farmer ;

(*e*) whether the Government is further aware that there is already an Anglo-Indian Superintendent and 1 Head Assistant in Inspector-General's office, and if so, what was the necessity for giving another appointment to an Anglo-Indian to the prejudice of the claims of other communities ;

(*f*) how many vacancies of Head Assistants arose in Inspector-General's office during the last two years and how many out of these were offered to Anglo-Indians ;

(*g*) whether Government intends to take any steps to make the vacancy of Head Assistant offered to Mr. Farmer available for Indian clerks of Inspector-General of Prisons' office and if so, what ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

ADDITIONAL DAYS FOR COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Revenue Member) : I wish to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to allot two more official days 26th and 27th in case the present business on the list is not finished to-day.

THE PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (EXECUTIVE OFFICER) BILL.

Mr. President : The proviso which the honourable member for Dera Ghazi Khan wishes to add to sub-clause (1) of clause (3) is a new clause. Therefore, I call upon him to move it as such.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad (Dera Ghazi Khan, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I beg to move that a new clause in the form of a proviso be added to sub-clause (1) of clause 3. The proviso which I propose to be added runs as follows :—

> " Provided further that in case of municipalities other than the first class ones it shall be deemed to be sufficient compliance with the notification, if instead of appointing a salaried Executive Officer the Committee delegates all powers exercisable by the Executive Officer under this Act to their President."

Sir, one reason which has been put forward for placing this legislation before the House is that in the case of larger municipalities it is not possible for a non-official president, who has also his professional work, to carry on all the work of a municipality.

The Bill as originally placed before the Council applied only to four bigger municipalities and though under its provisions powers were given to the Government to extend the Act, the general impression was that the Act would apply to four of the bigger municipalities and that the reserve

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

powers in the hands of the Government would be seldom used. In the new Bill as it has emerged from the select committee the provisions are made to apply to all the municipalities by a notification. In regard to this provision, my submission is that the smaller municipalities have hardly any need for a salaried executive officer. In fact their finances are such that it would be impossible for them to bear the expenses of the salary of an executive officer. For this reason I submit that instead of forcing the smaller municipalities to have an executive officer, the object of the Bill will be satisfied if the committee concerned delegates all the powers which are exercised by the executive officer under this Bill to its president. With this brief introduction I move my amendment.

Mr. President : The new clause moved is—

> "in case of municipalities other than the first class ones it shall be deemed to be sufficient compliance with the notification, if instead of appointing a salaried Executive Officer the Committee delegates all powers exercisable by the Executive Officer under this Act to their President."

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government) : I regret I do not find mysalf able to accept this proviso. My submission is that in most of the municipalities the President is not a whole-time officer and he is not a paid officer either. He is very often a busy lawyer, a busy banker or a gentleman carrying on some other profession. And it is impossible for him to carry out the work which this proviso, if accepted, would impose on him and therefore the working of the committees would become very much clogged and even ordinary things would be held up. The proviso will create more difficulties than it is intended to avert. I, therefore, find it impossible to accept it.

Mr. President : Question is—

> "That the proposed new clause be taken into consideration."

Council divided : Ayes 22 ; Noes 45.

AYES :

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Chaudhri Allah Dad Khan.
Malik Muhammad Din.
Honorary Lieutenant Khan Sahib Malik Muzaffar Khan.
Khan Sahib Makhdum Shaikh Muhammad Hasan.
Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah.
Khawaja Muhammad Eusoof.
Chaudhri Faqir Husain Khan.
Mian Noor Ahmad Khan.
Chaudhri Riasat Ali.
Khan Sahib Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan.
Rai Jagdev Khan, Kharal.
Maulvi Imam-ud-Din.
Mian Nurullah.
Shaikh Abdul Ghani.
Rai Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Chaudhri Ram Sarup.

NOES :

Khan Bahadur Dr. K. A. Rahman.
Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
Rai Bahadur Lala Rattan Chand.
Mr. E. Maya Das.
Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave.
Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Janmeja Singh.
The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.
The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh.
Mr. P. Marsden.
Sir George Anderson.
Mr. F. H. Puckle.
Mr. E. L. Crawford.
Mr. J. B. G. Smith.
Mr. J. W. Hearn.
The Honourable Sir Henry Craik.
The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan.
Mr. C. M. G. Ogilvie.
Mr. B. M. Staig.
Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazl Ilahi.
Mr. S. L. Sale.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Mr. Sajan Kumar Chowdhry.
Thakur Pancham Chand.
Kanwar Mamraj Singh, Chohan.
Mr. P. Mukerji.
Lala Joti Prashad.
Lala Chetan Anand.
Lala Gopal Das.
Chaudhri Kesar Singh.
Chaudhri Nathwa Singh.
Lala Bhagat Ram.
Lala Ramji Das.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Sardar Mohan Singh.
Sardar Gurbachan Singh.
Sardar Sampuran Singh.
Honorary Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh.
Sardar Bishan Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sheo Narain Singh.
2nd-Lieutenant Sardar Ram Singh.
Guru Jaswant Singh.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) : I beg to move—

"That in clause 4, sub-clause (*i*) (*b*), the following proviso be added at the end :—

"Provided that (*i*) the municipal committee may dismiss or remove from service a servant or official drawing Rs. 45 or less per mensem by a majority in which case the servant or official affected shall be entitled to prefer an appeal against the order to such officer as the Local Government may prescribe by rule or notification, and

"(*ii*) if such a servant or official is dismissed or removed from service by a 3/5th majority of the whole house, no appeal shall lie against the order."

(*Urdu*) : Sir my object in moving this amendment is to register my sense of indignation and protest against the provision of this Bill, as it has emerged from the select committee, empowering the executive officer to dismiss or remove from service a servant or official drawing Rs. 45 per mensem. And since the municipal committee will be left utterly impotent to override the decision of this executive officer, his authority in this matter will become more or less arbitrary. He will be inclined to show little deference for the powers of the committee in view of their present factions, dissentions, and assume an autocratic air.

[Shaik Muhammad Sadiq.]

This is a general rule in the business world that the power of dismissal rests with the manager subject to the approval of the directors. But in this case the executive officer will be the monarch of all he surveys and there will be no one to dispute his rights. Mr. Marsden observed that the power of dismissal has not been taken away from the municipal committees, and the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government is also unhappily in agreement with him. But in my opinion, the Committee, under this section has forfeited the power of dismissing even a peon. [*A voice*: Question ?] Sir, clause 4 (*b*) (*i*) reads :—

> "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in section 39 of the Municipal Act, there shall vest in the executive officer the power of appointment of any officer or servant of the committee—"

The clause 4 therefore as it now stands, gives the exective officer the power to dismiss a servant not receiving a monthly renumeration exceeding Rs. 45. This shows that the committee would be helpless so far as the dismissal of such servants is concerned. What at the most the committee can do in this matter is to pass a censure motion against the exective officer himself. This procedure as is apparent would be ridiculous. I see the honourable member is nodding. Perhaps he thinks that I have not understood the real object of this section. Section 39 is quite clear. The executive officer will have very wide powers under this clause. I think if this proviso is added to the section, my object would be fulfilled. We do not want that the committees should be dissolved or that they should become irresponsible debating bodies. I hope the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill will give some assurance and take steps to ensure that the object underlying my amendment is fulfilled.

My clause does not take away the power of the executive officer. It merely gives the power to the municipal committee also. Both the executive officer and the municipal committee have concurrent powers. I do not want to vest the power exclusively in the municipal committee or the exective officer. We only say that notwithstanding anything that the executive officer may do, if the municipal committee finds that a certain servant is insolent or insubordinate they may dismiss him.

Mr. President: The new clause moved is that—

> "(*i*) The municipal committee may dismiss or remove from service a servant or official drawing Rs. 45 or less per mensem by a majority in which case the servant or official affected shall be entitled to prefer an appeal against the order to such officer as the Local Government may prescribe by rule or notification, and
>
> "(*ii*) If such a servant or official is dismissed or removed from service by a 3/5th majority of the whole house, no appeal shall be against the order."

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (Minister for Local Self-Government): Sir, I oppose the amendment and will give reasons for it. (*Urdu*): Sir, there is a cure for every disease but there is no remedy for vain imaginings. My honourable friends the Legal Remembrancer, the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments and myself have tried our best to convince the honourable mover that the clause as

it stands, does not interfere with the powers which the municipal committees now enjoy under the present Act. But it seems that in spite of that there are some doubts still lurking in the mind of the honourable member. I assure him that the clause in its present form will not interfere with the powers of the municipal committees. The amendment which the honourable member has moved is not only against the clause as it stands, but is also contrary to the spirit of the present Act.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Sir, on a point of personal explanation.

Mr. President: The honourable member would please wait till the Honourable Minister gives way or finishes his speech.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, I have no objection. The honourable member may say what he wants to say.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Sir, the Honourable Minister has remarked that they have tried their best to convince me but there is no remedy for vain imaginings. As a matter of fact, he only said that in the opinion of Mr. Marsden and Mr. Sale the clause did not interfere with the powers of the municipal committees. He did not assure me that it was so. Perhaps he thought that I was playing some trick.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: All right, I now assure you that what the Secretary, Transferred Departments said, was, I think, quite right. Will the honourable mover now withdraw his amendment ?

Mr. President : The question is that the proposed new clause be taken into consideration.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : The honourable member is withdrawing it. He has told us so.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member wish to withdraw the new clause ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Yes Sir.

The new clause was by leave withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : With your permission, Mr. President, may I make a statement to the House and request the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government to postpone the consideration of this measure to the May session ?

Mr. President : Is this all that the honourable member has to say ?

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I should like to say a few words by way of explanation.

Mr. President : Is there any objection to the honourable member making a statement ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I should like to hear my honourable friend's reasons for postponing the consideration of the Bill.

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Sir, some of the clauses are highly controversial and, unfortunately, in spite of all the attempts that have been made both while the select committee was sitting and afterwards, no agreement has been found possible. I am sure that the Bill can be passed in this Council with the help of official votes, but it will be very unfortunate if there is an impression created in the House and the public that Government will support any measure brought forward by a Minister, even though it is solidly opposed by a whole party. The party to which I belong has decided to request the Minister to postpone the consideration of the Bill to the May session, so that in the meantime some sort of agreement may be come to on the various points. I accordingly make this request to the Honourable Minister to kindly postpone the consideration of the Bill. But if he finds himself unable to comply with this request our party will cease to take any more part in the discussion of the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Sir, this request came to me as a surprise. I do not mean to say that this came to me as a surprise in the Council, because I was previously informed that a request like this would be made to me in the Council. Then it came to me as a surprise. So far as I have been able to gather from the various conferences which I have had with the representatives of the party led so ably by my honourable friend opposite, I think there is only one clause in the Bill which is really the bone of contention and that is part (1) of clause 3 which lays down a certain percentage of votes for the appointment of an executive officer. A number of amendments has been sent up, some asking for the substitution of a bare majority in the place of the $\frac{2}{3}$ majority which is laid down there. One or two amendments urge that the majority may be reduced from $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{5}$. Unfortunately on the examination of the present constitution of some of the most important municipalities in the province I found that if this percentage was reduced from $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{5}$, 60 municipalities in the Punjab would be affected adversely—60 out of 106 municipalities of both first and second classes. In these 60 municipalities the total strength of the minorities is either 40 per cent. or $\frac{2}{5}$ or even less than 40 per cent. If the proportion was reduced from $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{5}$ in these 60 municipalities, one community—the minority community, whichever it may be—might as well be left out of account altogether so far as the appointment of the executive officer is concerned. I consider that in a measure of this importance no law should lay down that one community should be wiped out in any local body by a statutory provision. For the information of the Muslim members of the House I may inform them that out of those 60 municipalities as many as 30 have a Muslim minority.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : There is no question of Muslim and non-Muslim.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : But we are dealing with a class of local bodies where representation is on a communal basis. Therefore it may not be considered that there was any motive behind the refusal to accept or inability to accept the amendment with respect to the reduction of the majority from two-thirds to three-fifths. I have every regard for the sentiments and opinions of honourable members of this House.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I rise to a point of order. May I ask the Honourable Minister to name those thirty municipalities in which Muslims are in a minority ?

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : That is a question and not a point of order. Probably the honourable member put it that way so that I might sit down. I would have sat down at his request even otherwise. If the honourable member wants the names of municipalities in which the Muslim community is in a minority and a minority of either 40 per cent. or less than 40 per cent., I can give them in a minute. I have a whole list of them with me, but I do not think that it is very necessary, unless he insists.

Mr. President : Does the honourable member insist upon hearing those names ?

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : No, Sir.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Now I would make a suggestion to my honourable friend the Leader of the Unionist Party and that is this that if, as I have put it, only one clause is the bone of contention and if his party admits the necessity of having a measure like the one which is now before the House, perhaps we could go through this clause on which there is a difference of opinion in the May session, and dispose of the other clauses in this session. I think there is nothing in the procedure against it. I would draw the attention of the honourable members and of you, Sir, to article 93. It says :

> " Notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders, it shall be in the discretion of the President, when a motion that a Bill be taken into consideration has been carried, to submit the Bill, or any part of the Bill, to the Council clause by clause. When this procedure is adopted, the President shall call each clause separately, and, when the amendments relating to it have been dealt with, shall put the question : " That this clause or (as the case may be, that this clause as amended) stand part of the Bill."

This is the procedure laid down in the rules, and there is nothing to prevent the Honourable President from putting other clauses before this House with their amendments if any are made and disposing of the rest of the Bill and not putting clause 3 which may be considered in the May session. I am quite agreeable to that. I may give an assurance, a sincere assurance and a full assurance to my honourable friends who stood up to oppose this Bill that nothing is farther from my mind than to do injustice to any class or community so far as its connection with the local bodies in my charge is concerned, and I have the fullest faith that no obstructive measures would be adopted by anyone of them. If any reasonable suggestions are made at any moment I would be prepared to consider them. If this appeals to them I think we may proceed with the consideration of the other clauses of the Bill and reserve this clause for the next session.

Rao Bahahdur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I have given the suggestion that has been made by the Honourable Minister in charge of this Bill such consideration as I could give to it within the course of a minute. I feel that if I were to agree to the suggestion that has been made, then any value that may attach

[Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

to a walk-out on the part of my Party would be entirely gone. If it is to have any significance, we should withdraw at the very outset and wash our hands of any responsibility for the passing of this Bill. I hope we may be able to reconsider the attitude of the Party on the Bill as a whole if he is willing to postpone the consideration of this Bill to the May session. The Bill should not take a very long time in the next session, but if he is entirely opposed to postponing the consideration of this Bill, except in respect of this particular clause, I am afraid I cannot accept his suggestion.

Mr. President : A clause of a Bill cannot be postponed when the Bill is taken into consideration as reported by a select committee.

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : As I have already submitted, Sir, I do not want to do anything which should leave any bitterness in the minds of any members of this House and the impression that I want to take advantage of the unquestionable majority that I have in support of the Bill to-day. I do not want to take any advantage of it and if my honourable friends want time and in the meantime can develop a more reasonable and concilliatory spirit, I have not the least hesitation in postponing it to-day. I beg to move—

"That the debate be adjourned."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the debate be now adjourned."

The motion was carried.

THE KALRA IMPARTIBLE ESTATE BILL.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : Sir, I think that this Bill should also be postponed to the next session.

Mr. President : I am entirely in the hands of the honourable members.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : In view of the fact that the Kalra Bill has also evoked considerable controversy, I hope that that Bill will also be postponed.

Mr. President : It is for the honourable members to decide whether they will postpone the Bill or proceed with it. But I may point out that a large number of amendments have been tabled and unless the Bill is referred to a select committee the discussion of all these amendments is bound to take considerable time of the House.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : I do not think that this is a Bill which might be referred to a select committee because after all it is a Bill in which the public are only remotely concerned, but there are so many amendments and we have not had the time to give them due consideration and it would be highly desirable to adjourn the consideration of the Bill altogether.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Is it a rule that a private Bill should not go to a select committee ?

Mr. President : There is no such rule, and I hope the member in charge of the Bill will consider my suggestion.

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : It rests with the honourable mover of the Bill to accept the suggestion, but I should like to bring to your notice that in case the motion for consideration is adopted by the House, then most of the amendments will very probably be out of order (*A voice* : and, therefore, your labours will be considerably reduced).

An honourable member : There may be many points of controversy and debate and if the Bill is not going to be passed at once it is better to defer the consideration of the Bill altogether.

Mr. President : If the consideration of the Bill is to be defered, why not refer it to a select committee in the meantime so that it may be placed before the Council when it meets next in an improved form ? It is for the member in charge of the Bill to decide whether he will accept the suggestion and make a motion to that effect.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I am sorry that I cannot agree to the postponement of the Bill to any future date. There is a personal reason too.

Mr. President : Well, then, the House will decide whether it will take the Bill into consideration or refer the Bill to a select committee.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : You called on me.

Mr. President : Yes.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani [West Punjab Towns, Muhammadan (Urban)] : I beg to move—

"That the Kalra Impatible Estate Bill be taken into consideration."

Mr. President : That motion is out of order and I rule it accordingly. The honourable member has not yet introduced the Bill.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Sir, I beg to introduce the Kalra Impartible Estate Bill. In doing so I will refer the House to a short history of the family, because the Bill is a private one and affects only the landed and immoveable property of Colonel Nawab Malik Sir Umar Hayat Khan, Tiwana and his son Captain Malik Khizar Hayat Khan. As most of the honourable members are aware these Tiwana Chiefs belonged originally to Rajput clan in Central India.

3 P.M.

Mr. President : Who are the two chiefs ?

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I have named the two just now. I shall refer in a way to all the Tiwanas, because they are originally descended from that gentleman who migrated to our district of Shahpur in the fifteenth century. This tribe of Tiwanas of Shahpur descended from one common ancestor who migrated to Shahpur from Daranagar in Central India. In this part of our province he established a sort of a kingdom and the first Malik of the family was Mir Ali Khan. Mir Ali Khan founded a large village, Ukhli Maula, which exists even to the present day in the Shahpur district. Mir Ali Khan's eldest son, Mir Ahmad Khan in 1680 founded the town of Mitha Tiwana.

Mr. President : This history, I think, the House is not very much interested in.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I will try to be brief. I have a point in referring to this as I will just explain.

Mr. President : I cannot allow the honourable member to refer to it.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I shall be brief and shall refer to the family history only in so far as it is relevant to the Bill before the House.

Mr. President : The honourable member will then refer only to that portion of the family history and not to the whole of it.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : That is what I intend doing. These facts are relevant to the point I am going to submit. The third chief was..

Mr. President : I cannot allow the honourable member to refer to the chiefs.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I am only referring to relevant portions of it.

Mr. President : If the honourable member wishes to state the whole history in his own way, I fear the time of the House is much too valuable for it.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Seven Maliks succeeded Mir Ali Khan one after another and they were all the eldest sons of their fathers. That is the point to which I want to draw the attention of the House specifically. According to the old custom the chiefship devolved upon the eldest son of the Malik who deceased and when the British came to the Punjab Malik Fateh Khan and Khadir Bakhsh were at the head of the family and they both rendered very great assistance to the British and fought for them.

Mr. President : That is irrelevant again. It has nothing to do with the Bill. The only relevant point is that the eldest sons have been succeeding.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : Malik Khadir Bakhsh was the Malik of the branch to which we have to refer to to-day. He was the eldest son of his father. At the time of the first regular settlement of this district, that is in 1857, no regular records were drawn up and no regular *Riwaj-i-'am* or custom prevailing in that part of the country was compiled. It was only in 1892 during the second settlement of Sir James Wilson that the *Riwaj-i-'am* was compiled and at that time Malik Sher Muhammad Khan and Malik Fateh Khan who were at the head of the family were present. At that time they made a statement to the Settlement Officer which is embodied in the *Riwaj-i-'am* and I would draw the attention of the House to that part of their statement, because these statements are important in dealing with what the custom of the family has been. At page 42 of the *Riwaj-i-'am*—the book is before me and I am prepared to lay it on the table—you find the heading 'Tiwana Chiefs.' That is the heading of the paragraph. It is stated in that paragraph, "The whole property of either of the two heads of the Tiwana family goes on his death to his eldest son, the younger sons being only entitled to maintenance." This is the most important as we will have occasion to refer to it later. Now both Malik Fateh Khan and Malik Sher Khan succeeded to the whole of their respective fathers' property to the exclusion of the younger brothers and this custom of primogeniture is to

continue in the family. This *Riwaj-i-'am* which was compiled in 1892, by Sir James Wilson has been referred to in the various rulings of the High Court and has been pronounced to be a very great and authentic authority on the customs enunciated therein. Moreover there are clear instances in the family of the eldest son succeeding to the father's property even before the advent of the British. After the British came and things settled themselves, the Chief told the Settlement officer explicitly that the custom in future would be as it was in the past, that is, that the whole estate would go to the eldest son, the other sons being only entitled to maintenance. In pursuance of this custom Malik Sir Umar Hayat's father being the third son of his father did not inherit a single acre of the landed property of his father. In proof of this I would refer the House to the fact that in Mitha Tiwana, Sir Umar Hayat Khan's father did not own even a single kanal or bhiga of land up to 1922. That is conclusive proof I think of the fact that only the eldest son succeeded to the property left by the father. It was only in 1922 that Sir Umar Hayat Khan's father purchased 165 acres of land in that village by a private sale and the sale deed is now in my possession. In 1922, he purchased 165 acres of land and that is all the landed property that he owned in the town of Mitha Tiwana and Ukhli Maula the village which was formerly the home of this tribe beyond the river Jhelum.

Lawyer members of this Council know it very well that a recital of the custom in the *Riwaj-i-'am*, even though that is not supported, is a very strong piece of evidence in proof of the custom and the Privy Council in a ruling has gone to the length of holding that *Riwaj-i-'am*, even in the absence of instances, is almost conclusive proof of the custom recited therein. I would refer the House in this respect to 45 of 1917, Punjab Record and many other rulings subsequent to that. This principle is so well recognised in law and in Jurisprudence that *Riwaj-i-'am* supported by instances, as in this case, is an authority for holding that the custom that it supports cannot be abrogated in any way. So, with respect to this family, the position is that primogeniture has been in existence in the family, it has been acted upon for centuries, it was recognised at the time of the advent of British rule, it was embodied in the *Riwaj-i-'am* and it is supported by instances and the law of the land as it now stands. There is no authority to abrogate this law nor to set it at naught in any possible way. Therefore, even without coming to the legislature, the custom of the family as it stands is quite enough to fortify Sir Malik Umar Hayat Khan in this position. His property would necessarily go to the eldest son and the younger sons would only be entitled to maintenance. That is a custom which is well established in the family. When I come before this Council with this measure I am not asking for any innovation. I am simply asking the sanction of this House to put the custom on a stronger foundation so that in future the family may be saved any further trouble with respect to litigation. This is one of the underlying principles of the Bill which I am putting before the House. In the first instance I am pleading that succession should be restricted to the eldest male heir and that the other sons should only get maintenance. The next point why I am bringing this Bill before the House is that the whole estate should be declared to be impartible. Of course this is only a corollary to the first point, namely that the property should go only to the eldest son. The third point I want the House to agree to is that the property should be made inalienable. That is why I ask the sanction of the Council to the inalienability. Thus

[Shaikh Abdul Ghani.]

there are three underlying principles in the Bill, namely, primogeniture, impartibility and inalienability under certain reservations and conditions which are fully set forth in the Bill.

With respect to the position of widows, I may make it clear that according to the *Riwaj-i-'am* (page 48) widows are entitled only to maintenance. I have in this Bill made ample provision for safeguarding the interests of widows. I do not think their position will in any way be worse now than under the ordinary law. I rather think that I have made certain tacit improvement in their status.

With respect to daughters that *Riwaj-i-'am* is quite clear and I might read it out to the House. It is page 48 again :

> "In some families of Tiwanas and Sayads a daughter can in no case inherit but is entitled to only a maintenance."

This being a clear and emphatic dictum of the customary law as embodied in the *Riwaj-i-'am* I do not think daughters have any chance of succession in the ordinary law and I am not asking anything more, I am simply asking in a way to reaffirm the custom so that this family which deserves very well of the State might feel secure. I might submit to the House that recently the title of a hereditary Nawab has been conferred on the Colonel Nawab Sir Umar Hyat and it is only in the fitness of things that this should be made and I think the House would be generous enough to award that assistance which I demand that this family should remain intact. Colonel Sir Umar Hyat is a gentleman whose name is known to everybody in the country and I think everyone is aware of the services that he has rendered to the country and the crown and the status of the family and his own personality and the importance of the family I would submit are all recommendations in favour of the Bill being accepted. Moreover, the House in these days when Reforms are to be introduced would be doing well to consider the point that by rendering assistance to families of this sort, to aristocratic families in the Punjab, it would be enlisting the sympathies of such families and will be winning their confidence. As it is only a personal Bill which affects nobody and does not contravene any settled custom prevailing in the Punjab on any particular point I hope the House would show me indulgence in granting their consent in favour of my Bill. With these remarks I move the introduction of the Bill.

Mr. President : Gentlemen, I extremely regret to say that the honourable member in charge of the Bill has left no option to me but to adjourn the House *sine die*. At first he got up and moved the motion that the Kalra Impartible Estate Bill be taken into consideration, but then the Bill was not before the House because he had not introduced it. And when I pointed this out to him he got up and introduced the Bill. Then he made a speech, but resumed his seat without moving the motion that stands in his name, with the result that there is no motion which I can propose from the chair.

Shaikh Abdul Ghani : I did.

Mr. President : No. The honourable member did not. The House will bear me out that he did not. (*Voices* : No, he did not). As the motion has not been moved and as the honourable member is not entitled to a second speech I adjourn the House *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die*.

2 PLC—600—18-4-31—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

APPENDIX.

Answers to questions put in the Session of the Council but received after the publication of the debates of the dates on which the questions were put and before the prorogation of the Council.

ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS.

ASSESSMENT OF LAND REVENUE IN DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 12, *page* 10 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) * *

(*b*) In fixing the existing demand the settlement officer did not take any proportion of irrigated area per holding into consideration.

(*c*) The information is, it is regretted, not available.

HOISTING OF CONGRESS FLAG IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KASUR, BY LALA BODH RAJ.

(*Answer to Question No.* 15, *page* 11 ante.)

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) Yes, the Senior Vice-President allowed the Secretary of the Congress Committee to hoist the Congress flag in the compound of the town hall without the sanction of the Committee.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No. A copy of the resolution passed by the Committee is attached. A copy of the resolution was not forwarded to Government till a report was recently called for from the Deputy Commissioner.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No action has been taken against Lala Bodh Raj.

Resolution No. 399/46, passed by the Municipal Committee, Kasur, at a general meeting held on 27th February 1930.

No. 399/46.—Proposal of Dr. Bodh Raj, member, supported by Khan Ghulam Haider Khan, member, that in the Municipal Committee, Kasur, there are two Vice-Presidents who perform the functions of the President in his absence from the head-quarters. The Secretary refers the matter to one of them whenever emergency arises and the President is outside Municipal limits, to obtain orders. It has happened many a time that the orders passed by the Vice-President in the capacity of acting President in the absence of the

President from the head-quarters, are cancelled by the President on his return. This causes a check in the working of the Committee and ill-feelings among members. It should, therefore, be decided whether the President had the authority of cancelling or making alterations in orders of the Vice-Presidents of the kind so that the Committee's working may not be checked and the Vice-President may come to know of his correct position.

(*a*) Remark by the Pesident that the above writing seems to refer to the case when the Senior Vice-President, on my absence report from the town, allowed the Secretary of the Congress Committee on his application to hoist the national flag in the town-hall compound and when I had disallowed the same with the consultation of the members. The matter, in my opinion, had a special graveness in itself. The Secretary to refer to any other case, if any, after the receipt of the letter of instructions, from Mr. E. S. Lewis, A. D. M. Papers be put up in the general meeting.

(*b*) Remark by the President that the Senior Vice-President, in spite of my presence in the town, issued an order of the withdrawal of Hukam Chand Chaprasi's pay on 6th January 1930, in the capacity of the Acting President.

Resolved.—(*a*) There is no doubt that the authorities of the Vice-President, given to them by law, are admitted. The case of hoisting of national flag was, according to the memorandum of the President, of a serious and political nature and which had nothing to do with municipal affairs. The act of Dr. Bodh Raj in issuing an order in the capacity of the Senior Vice-President, is a misuse of his office. The Committee looks down upon this act of Dr. Bodh Raj with hatred, and appreciates the act of the members and the President who have disallowed the so-called national flag in the Town Hall compound. Copy of the above resolution be submitted to the Local Government through the Deputy Commissioner.

RASUL BAKHSH, STUDENT, MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR.

(*Answer to Question No.* 23, *page* 15 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) It has been ascertained that in the case of Indian Universities other than the Punjab University and Calcutta University (from which a reply is still awaited) the practice is to debar the students in question from appearing at University examination for a period generally of two years. In Madras a three year period is not unknown and in serious cases the Allahabad and Benares Universities disqualify candidates permanently.

(*b*) The Faculty considered that on the merits of the case the punishment imposed was not severe.

SALARIES OF SERVICES.

(*Answer to Question No.* 40, *page* 71 ante.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information asked for by the honourable member is given in the attached statement.

Department.	Service.	Year in which the pay was last increased.	Grounds for revision.
Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.	Indian Service of Engineers.	1924	As a result of the recommendations of the Lee Commission.
Ditto	Provincial Service of Engineers. ..	1920	This service was introduced in 1920 and the pay has not been revised since then.
Ditto	Deputy Collectors in Irrigation Branch.	1920	Owing to increased work and responsibilities and general rise in the cost of living.
Forest ..	Indian Forest Service and Provincial Forest Service.	1920	These services were reorganised in 1920 as a result of recommendations of the Royal Commission on public services in India and the revised scales of pay then fixed are still in force.
Agriculture ..	I.A.S. ..	1919	As a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on public services.
Ditto ..	P.A.S. ..	1920	Ditto.
Veterinary ..	I.V.S. ..	1919	Ditto.
Ditto ..	P.V.S. ..	1919	Ditto.
Co-operative ..	Provincial Co-operative Service.	1924	This service was introduced in 1924 and the pay has not been revised since then.
Education ..	I.E.S. ..	1919	In pursuance of the recommendations of the Islington Committee based on the increase in the cost of living. In 1924 in view of the recommendations of the Lee Commission the rates of overseas pay in the later stages were raised.
Ditto ..	P.E.S. ..	1920	The pay was revised on the same grounds as the revision of that of the I.E.S.
Police ..	I.P.S. ..	1924	As a result of the recommendations of the Lee Commission.
Do. ..	P.P.S. ..	1921	As a result of the recommendations of the Public Services Commission.

Department.	Service.	Year in which the pay was last increased.	Ground for revision.
Medical ..	I.M.S. Officers in civil employ.	1924	As a result of the recommendations of the Lee Commission.
Do. ..	P.C.M.S. and I.M.D., Civil Surgeons as well as P.C.M.S., Assistant Surgeons.	1920	On account of increased cost of living.
Civil Secretariat ..	Punjab General Service (Assistant Secretaries to Government, Punjab), 1927.	..	The pay was raised after comparison with the pay allowed to Superintendents in the Punjab Secretariats and with the pay allowed to Assistant Secretaries in the United Provinces and the Government of India Secretariats.

MUSLIM TEACHERS IN BOARD SCHOOLS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

(*Answer to Question No.* 58, *page* 78 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Seven.

(*b*) Seven.

(*c*) The cases of these teachers are under consideration.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

(*Answer to Question No.* 63, *page* 131 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : A statement of the information desired is laid on the table :—

Serial No.	Name of District.	Number of appointment or transfer made without previous consultation or concurrence of the Chairman of the board concerned.
1	Gujrat	5
2	Shahpur	8
3	Jhelum	5
4	Rawalpindi	3
5	Attock	..
6	Mianwali	..

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

(*Answer to Question No.* 64, *page* 131 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : A statement showing the information desired is laid on the table.

Kind of punishment.	Number of teachers punished.
(1) Transfer	Hindu—4, Muslim—2, Sikh—*ni*
(2) Stoppage of increment.. ..	Hindu—*nil*, Muslim—*nil*, Sikh—*nil*.
(3) Reprimand	Hindu—*nil*, Muslim—1, Sikh—*nil*.

CLOSURE OF CANALS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 75, *page* 138 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The information required by the Honourable Member is shown in the attached statement.

STATEMENT SHOWING CLOSURES OF SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT CANALS (PERENNIAL AREAS) DUE TO BREACHES OR OTHERWISE DURING THE YEARS 1928, 1929 AND 1930.

Canal.	Period of closure.	Reasons.
	1928.	
Pakpattan Canal	14 days	Annual inspection of river.
	1 day	Heavy rain.
Estern Sadiqia Canal ..	22 days	Rotational closure.
Bahawal Canal	3 ,,	Repairs to Weir.
	1 day	Breach.
	6 days	Heavy rain.
	4 ,,	Reasons not known.
	68 ,,	As desired by Executive Engineer, Qaimpur Division.
	1929.	
Pakpattan Canal ..	16 days	Annual inspection of river.
	23 ,,	Rotational closure.
	14 ,,	Flood in river and heavy rain.
	3 ,,	Breach at R. D. 60,700 R.
	30 ,,	Rotational closure.

Canal.	Period of closure.	Reasons.
	1929.	
Eastern Sadiqia Canal ..	3 days	Flood in river.
Bahawal Canal	19 "	Annual inspection of river.
	29 "	Rotational closure.
	1 day	Shortage of supply in river.
	1 "	Inspection of Canal.
	3 days	Flood in river.
	104 "	Damage to Islam Weir.
	1930.	
Pakpattan Canal ..	24 days	Annual inspection of river.
	1 day	Heavy rain and breach.
	1 "	Flood in river.
Eastern Sadiqia Canal ..	26 days	Rotational closure.
	3 "	Flood in river.
Bahawal Canal	5 "	Damage to Islam Weir.
	3 "	Shortage of supply in river.
	7 "	Flood in river.
	6 "	Annual inspection of river.

FLUME BRIDGES ON THE SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 87, *page* 143 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) 15.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) None have failed and 5 have needed repairs.

(*d*) Rs. 4,61,466 in original cost.

Rs. 23,272 in repairs.

Rs. 28, 375 in extension.

(*e*) The flume type of bridges has been used and tested on several other Punjab Canals before they were built on the Sutlej Valley Canals.

(*f*) and (*g*) Do not arise.

GOVERNMENT BUNGALOWS, LYALLPUR.

(*Answer to Question No.* 88, *page* 143 ante.)

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes, from 5·88 to 13·72 acres.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*). So far as the Irrigation Branch bungalows are concerned the attention of the honourable member is invited to paragraph 13.26 of the Revenue Manual as amended by Addendum and Corrigendum No. 11, which is under issue. A copy of this paragraph, as it will read after amendment is placed on the table. In regard to the other bungalows, the information is contained in a statement placed on the table.

Paragraph 13·26 of the Revenue Manual, as amended by Addendum and Corrigendum No. 11.

CULTIVATION OF VACANT CANAL LAND.

13·26. Vacant canal land may be divided into two classes—

(*a*) vacant land within the boundaries of a canal rest-house compound ; and

(*b*) vacant land outside the limits of a canal rest-house compound.

Vacant land falling under (*a*) above may be sown with a fodder crop for the purpose of feeding Government bullocks. The area sown shall be recorded in the Khasra and assessed to canal water-rates, the charges being debited to the estimate to which the maintenance of bullocks is charged.

In the case of (*b*) above, the land may be leased out for temporary cultivation to persons, other than Government servants, under the existing rules in force on this subject, but on no account shall vacant land falling under (*a*) above be so leased.

2. No Government land, other than in a compound attached to a Government residential bungalow, shall be sown by any Government servant for private purpose irrespective of whether rent or water-rates are charged or not.

3. (*i*) Where a garden attached to a Government residential building has been laid out, and hedges, trees, shrubs and vegetation of lasting character have been planted, Government, like any other landlord, is entitled to see that these amenities are properly maintained. Tenants of Government residences will therefore be required to keep up the grounds to this extent as a condition of their tenancy. In the case of default, the Head of the Department is empowered to call upon the occupant to bring the grounds up to a proper standard of upkeep, and, if necessary, to authorise the entertainment of establishment and incurring of expenditure to that end, charging the same to the tenant as an addition to the rent.

(*ii*) The share of responsibility between in-going and out-going incumbents for any default in this matter, and for any expenditure incurred in compliance with the above orders, will be determined according to circumstances, the Head of the Department being arbiter in the case of a dispute.

(*iii*) The liability of *locum tenens* for the cost of maintaining the garden attached to an official residence is a matter to be arranged between the officer concerned, it being understood that in the absence of any special agreement, the occupant for the time being responsible for the upkeep charges of the garden.

(*iv*) The tenant of a Government residential building is entitled to the value of the fruit, flowers, vegetables, grass or crop sown and raised by him and which may be disposed of by him during the actual period of his tenancy.

(*v*) A tenant is not entitled to hire out or lease any portion of his compound for the growing of crops, though provided the spirit of the rules as regards proper upkeep of the compound, as are embodied in this paragraph, is observed there is no objection to his employing outside agency to cultivate the area and realising the value of produce so raised during his tenancy.

(*vi*) Any advance sales of immature crops or other produce is prohibited. Any adjustment of value or uncut or immature crops or produce is

a matter for mutual agreement between the out-going and in-coming tenants.

(*vii*) Where a residence and an office are situated in the same compound a reasonable area, subject to a maximum of 3 acres, will be fixed and demarcated under the orders of the Head of the Department as attaching to the residence, the rest of the area being considered as attached to the office. In the case of a compound containing residential quarters only, the whole area of the compound will be considered as attaching to the residence. The tenant however will be required to maintain properly an area upto and not exceeding 3 acres only in accordance with the provisions of clause (*i*) above if the whole area is of more than three acres.

Serial No.	Name of building.	Area of compound in acres.	Whether land attached put for cultivation on cash rent.	Whether such amount goes into the pockets of the occupants or Government.	REMARKS.
1	Residence of Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur.	13·72	Yes	Occupant ..	The Deputy Commissioner states that a part of the land has been leased for Rs. 200, this money is by no means a profit to him, because it cost him Rs. 500 a year in malis wages to keep up the garden.
2	Residence of 1st Assistant Commissioner, Lyallpur.	7·80	Yes	Ditto.	
3	Residence of 2nd Assistant Commissioner, Lyallpur.	10·00	No	Does not arise.	
4	Residence of District and Sessions Judge, Lyallpur.	7·69	No	Ditto.	
5	Residence of Superintendent of Police, Lyallpur.	11·00	Yes	Occupant.	
6	Residence of Civil Surgeon, Lyallpur.	11·00	Yes.	Ditto.	The Civil Surgoen states that the lease money hardly meets the expenditure incurred on the upkeep of the garden.
7	Residence of Executive Engineer, Lyallpur.	5·88	No	Dces not arise.	
8	Residence of 1st Assistant Engineer, Lyallpur.	8·26	No	Ditto.	
9	Residence of 2nd Assistant Engineer, Lyallpur.	8·03	No	Ditto.	

Residential houses with compounds less than three acres in area have been omitted.

TEACHERS OF POST-MATRICULATION CLERICAL AND COMMERCIAL CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 132, *page* 253 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government is unable to say.

(*c*) Total number of admissions to the post-matric classes attached to Government Schools.	Total number of Muslims admitted to the post-matric classes attached to Government Schools.
703	185.

(*d*) Government does its best to protect the interests of all communities.

INSPECTORS AND HEADMASTERS IN JULLUNDUR.

(*Answer to Question No.* 159, *page* 265 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : A statement giving the required information is enclosed.

Number of Government High Schools and their Headmasters.				Number of Disrtict Board High Schools and their Headmasters.				Number of District Inspectors of Schools.			
Number of Government High Schools.	Hindu.	Sikh.	Muslim.	Number of District Board High Schools.	Hindu.	Sikh.	Muslim.	Number of District Inspectors of Schools.	Hindu.	Sikh.	Muslim.
12	8	3	1	9	4	2	3	5	4	1	..

Number of Assistant District Inspectors of Schools.				Number of non-Muslim Headmasters of Government High Schools, appointed in		Number of non-Muslim Headmasters of District Board High Schools appointed in		Name of Inspectors of Schools in charge of Jullundur Division in—	
Number of Assistant District Inspector of Schools.	Hindu.	Sikh.	Muslim.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
28	11	10	7	3	1	1	1	1. Sardar Bahadur Sardar Bishan Singh upto 3rd October 1928. 2. Mr. Man Mohan from 5th October 1928.	Mr. Man Mohan.

PLANTATIONS ON CANAL BANKS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 160, *page* 265 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan :

* * * * * * *

(*c*) 4,294 miles.
(*d*) 29,565 acres.

* * * * * * *

WATCH AND WARD ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL TOWNS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 208, *page* 327 ante.)

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : A statement giving the required information is attached.

LIST OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES WHOSE WATCH AND WARD EXPENSES ARE PAID BY GOVERNMENT.

District.	Name of munipal committee.	Population (1921.)	Gross annual income including loans, grants, etc. (1929-30).	Annual amount spent by the municipal committee on watch and ward at the time of its being taken over by Government.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rs.	Rs.	
Hissar ..	Bhiwani ..	33,270	82,416	10,902	
Rohtak ..	Rohtak ..	25,240	5,74,721	2,391	
	Jhajjar ..	10,800	23,465	Not available.	
	Beri ..	7,454	27,639	1,008	
	Sonepat ..	12,981	43,726	2,400	
Gurgaon ..	Rewari ..	23,129	99,748	8,681	
	Palwal ..	9,352	34,501	1,233	
	Firozpur Jhirka	4,542	21,354	Not available.	
	Ballabgarh ..	3,721	19,796	Ditto.	
	Faridabad ..	4,337	15,954	Ditto.	
Karnal ..	Karnal ..	22,845	1,07,382	6,778	
	Panipat ..	27,343	1,14,579	6,256	
	Kaithal ..	15,477	32,129	4,112	
Ambala ..	Ambala ..	76,326	1,49,870	6,148	
	Jagadhri ..	11,544	50,914	3,304	
Simla ..	Simla ..	27,494	17,76,868	Not available.	
Kangra ..	Dharamsala ..	4,904	20,712	The Committee never incurred anything on watch and ward.	
Hoshiarpur ..	Hoshiarpur ..	21,285	95,982	5,366	
	Urmar Tanda..	8,362	16,072	1,511	
Ludhiana ..	Ludhiana ..	51,880	2,53,435	12,706	
	Jagraon	17,731	1,15,340	1,082	
Ferozepore ..	Muktsar ..	10,539	78,616	1,105	
	Moga ..	14,145	74,637	5,000	
	Ferozepore ..	54,351	1,48,306	6,312	
	Abohar ..	8,916	1,15,961	4,500	
	Fazilka ..	13,829	75,841	1,762	

District.	Name of municipal committee,	Population (1921.)	Gross annual income including loans, grants, etc. (1929-3).	Annual amount spent by the municipal committee on watch and ward at the time of its being taken over by Government.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rs.	Rs.	
Lahore ..	Lahore ..	281,781	2,6 6 993	Not available.	
	Kasur ..	31,018	1,61,760	Ditto.	
	Khem Karan..	6,152	16,609	Ditto.	
	Patti ..	10,439	33,216	Ditto.	
	Chunian ..	7,642	32,983	Ditto.	
Amritsar ..	Jandiala ..	7,464	44,759	1,625	Partly borne by Government and partly by the committee.
	Amritsar ..	160,218	28,59,514	Not available.	
Gurdaspur ..	Gurdaspur ..	8,906	38,524	1,008	
	Dinanagar ..	4,047	19,023	1,452	
	Dalhousie ..	2,405	41,045	856	
	Batala ..	26,122	1,03,926	6,870	
	Pathankot ..	7,353	63,262	1,187	Partly by Government and partly by the committee.
	Dera Baba Nanak.	4,333	15,684	1,338	Ditto.
Sialkot ..	Sialkot ..	70,619	4,80,518	17,493	
Gujranwala ..	Gujranwala ..	37,887	3,77,255	Not available.	
	Wazirabad ..	18,645	1,06,196	Ditto.	
	Eminabad ..	5,816	13,876	Ditto.	
Gujrat ..	Gujrat ..	21,974	85,529	4,141	
Shahpur ..	Bhera ..	17,027	47,935	4,458	
	Miani ..	5,965	28,080	1,973	
	Khushab ..	10,009	33,009	2,734	
	Sahiwal ..	6,582	19,131	3,298	
	Sargodha ..	17,728	2,27,922	2,514	
Jhelum ..	Jhelum ..	18,060	99,397	5,000	
	Pind Dadan Khan.	9,919	30,441	4,024	
Rawalpindi ..	Rawalpindi ..	101,142	7,07,217	14,000	
	Murree ..	3,292	1,64,876	Is reported to have made no such payments.	
Attock ..	Campbellpur ..	9,850	46,895	2,220	
	Hazro ..	8,408	37,283	2,519	
Mianwa ..	Bhakkar ..	6,193	28,115	..	
	Isa Khel ..	6,172	16,663	600	
Montgomery..	Montgomery ..	14,601	1,85,391	876	
	Kamalia ..	8,916	23,926	1,457	
	Pakpattan ..	7,218	23,262	512	

District.	Name of municipal committee.	Population (1921.)	Gross annual income including loans, grants, etc. (1929-30).	Annual amount spent by the municipal committee on watch and ward at the time of its being taken over by Government.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rs.	Rs.	
Lyallpur ..	Lyallpur ..	28,136	3,62,101	11,553	
Jhang ..	Jhang-*cum*-Maghiana.	30,139	1,27,816	6,144	
	Chiniot ..	17,513	60,563	2,415	
Multan ..	Multan ..	84,806	6,56,509	26,650	
	Shujabad ..	6,730	40,998	1,489	
Muzaffargarh	Muzaffargarh ..	5,386	22,647	1,900	
	Khangarh ..	3,184	13,333	900	
	Leiah ..	8,476	31,293	2,100	
Dera Ghazi Khan.	Dajal ..	5,775	20,894	Not available.	
	Rajanpur ..	3,964	12,241	Ditto.	
	Mitthankot ..	3,204	11,127	Ditto.	
	Dera Ghazi Khan.	20,731	1,01,338	Ditto.	

LIST OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES WHOSE WATCH AND WARD EXPENSES ARE PAID BY THE COMMITTEES THEMSELVES.

District.	Name of municipal committee.	Population (1921).	Gross annual income including loans, grants, etc. (1929-30).	Amount spent annually by municipal committee on watch and ward.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rs.	Rs.	
Hissar ..	Hissar ..	21,415	89,173	1,878	
	Hansi ..	15,425	49,201	2,168	
	Sirsa ..	16,241	47,206	2,818	
Rohtak ..	Gohana ..	5,107	16,210	1,536	
	Bahadurgarh ..	5,955	21,534	1,928	
Gurgaon ..	Hodal ..	5,854	26,879	1,974	
Karnal ..	Shahabad ..	11,329	28,208	2,817	
	Thanesar ..	4,226	10,454	1,494	
Ambala ..	Rupar ..	7,606	33,583	2,958	
	Sadhaura ..	7,630	17,926	2,073	
	Buria ..	3,574	3,814	1,125	

District.	Name of municipal committee.	Population (1921).	Gross annual income including loans, grants, etc. (1929-30).	Amount spent annually by municipal committee on watch and ward.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rs.	Rs.	
Hoshiarpur ..	Hoshiarpur ..	21,285	95,982	*377	*This represents a part of the expenditure on watch and ward incurred by the committee since 1929-30.
Jullundur ..	Jullundur ..	71,008	2,70,559	3,765	
	Kartarpur ..	8,512	15,559	2,123	
	Nakodar ..	9,434	14,148	1,836	
	Phillaur ..	4,696	17,446	1,665	
	Nurmahal ..	6,845	10,258	1,950	
	Banga ..	5,089	13,582	1,342	
	Rahon ..	5,947	8,743	2,184	
Ludhiana ..	Jagraon ..	17,731	1,15,340	*1,152	*This is a part of the expenditure on watch and ward. A part of this expenditure is borne by Government.
	Raikot ..	8,379	22,865	1,801	
Ferozepore ..	Zira ..	4,622	22,982	2,000	
Lahore ..	Baghbanpura-Bhogiwal.	10,250	4,880	1,749	
Amritsar ..	Jandiala ..	7,464	44,759	1,300	A part of the expenditure is also borne by Government.
Gurdaspur ..	Pathankot ..	7,353	63,262	600	Ditto.
	Dera Baba Nanak.	4,333	15,684	820	Ditto.
Sialkot ..	Pasrur ..	6,909	22,819	2,097	
	Narowal ..	5,354	19,709	2,300	
Sheikhupura ..	Sharakpur ..	4,127	16,791	1,560	
Gujrat ..	Jalalpur Jattan	10,792	28,021	2,694	
	Dinga ..	6,014	15,350	2,527	
	Kunjah ..	7,240	10,914	1,120	
	Gujrat ..	21,974	85,529	*688	* For Railway Station Bazar only.
Attock ..	Pindigheb ..	9,419	24,725	1,970	
Mianwali ..	Mianwali ..	9,115	68,766	2,295	
	Kalabagh ..	8,455	23,005	1,103	
Lyallpur ..	Gojra ..	7,622	97,122	4,116	
Muzaffargarh ..	Alipur ..	3,434	15,915	1,065	
	Karor ..	3,539	16,687	799	
Dera Ghazi Khan	Jampur ..	7,317	24,678	768	

PASSAGES TO IMPERIAL SERVICE OFFICERS.

(*Answer to Question* No. 217, *page* 330 ante.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The expenditure incurred in the Punjab on free passages granted to officers of Imperial Services during the last five years is given below :—

Year.	*Amount incurred.*
	Rs.
1925-26	1,22,113
1926-27	3,14,326
1927-28	2,69,065
1928-29	2,20,151
1929-30	2,24,126

SPECIAL PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL SERVICES.

(*Answer to Question No.* 218, *page* 330 ante.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information asked for is given below :—

——	Special Pay.			Special Allowances.		
	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Services ..	1,68,741	1,76,964	1,82,080	70,520	75,731	72,182
Provincial Services ..	1,57,751	1,72,259	1,98,718	14,189	20,284	25,142
Total ..	3,26,492	3,49,223	3,80,798	84,709	96,015	97,324

Compulsory Education in Rohtak District.

(*Answer to Question No.* 220, *page* 331 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : A statement of the required information is attached.

Name of rural areas selected for the introduction of voluntary compulsion in the District of Rohtak before 1929.	Total population of the area.	Total number of scholars of school going age in each area.		Number of scholars on the roll.		Remarks.
		Boys. (*a*).	Girls. (*b*).	Boys. (*a*).	Girls. (*b*).	
1. Talao ..	1,797	225	..	209	..	(1) Compulsion has no effect on female education in this district.
2. Bamnaula ..	1,171	145	..	70	..	(2) The number on roll is more than the number of boys of school-going age on account of the following reasons :—
3. Birar ..	522	56	..	139	..	(*i*) Boys of neighbouring villages join in schools near to them.
4. Shamspur Majra	677	74	..	156	..	(*ii*) The boys of above 11 years are also included amongst the scholars on roll.
5. Chilkana ..	3,826	171	..	149	..	
6. Saragthal ..	1,641	109	..	75	..	

Breaches in the branches and distributaries of the Lower Chenab Canal.

(*Answer to Question No.* 221, *page* 331 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The number of breaches on the channels of the Lower Chenab Canal during 1929-30 is as per two statements attached.

(*b*) The only cases recorded of zamindars labour being employed are—

(*i*) Gugera Branch Lower .. .. 125 men.
(*ii*) Tandlianwala Distributary .. .. 20 „
(*iii*) Shorkot Distributary .. .. 13 „

(*c*) Wages paid were—

(*i*) Rs. 55.
(*ii*) Rs. 20.
(*iii*) Rs. 6-8-0.

(*d*) Method of payment employed was :—

(*i*) Bills through Lambardars.

(*ii*) Muster Rolls.

(*iii*) Through Contractors.

(*e*) Average wages paid per head works out to :—

(*i*) Re. 0-7-0.

(*ii*) Rs. 1-0-0.

(*iii*) Re. 0-8-0.

(*f*) In case of bills, receipts have been obtained of the payee and in the case of Muster Rolls receipt of the payee is not necessary.

STATEMENT SHOWING BREACHES BY CHANNELS IN LOWER CHENAB CANAL WEST CIRCLE DURING THE YEAR 1929-30.

Serial No.	Division	Name of Channel.	Number of breaches.
1	Hafizabad Division, 23.	Gajargola Distributary	7
2		Vaniki Distributary	2
3		Kot Said Mahmud Minor	5
4		Udoki Distributary	2
5		Ratteki Minor	2
6		Jurian Distributary	1
7		Nahrianwala Distributary	1
8		Moranwala Distributary	1
9		Jandoki Distributary	1
10		Chak Chatta Distributary	1
11	Jhang Division, 57.	Jhang Branch Lower	3
12		Titranwala Distributary	1
13		Faqir sar Distributary	2
14		Dhaular Distributary	3
15		Darsana Branch	2
16		Badhuana Minor	1
17		Gojra Distributary	2
18		Khewra Distributary	11
19		Bhangu Branch	6
20		Kaki Minor	1
21		Farid Mahmud Minor	1
22		Rakh Bhangu	1
23		Ghannu Distributary	9
24		Maghani Distributary	5
25		Sultan Pakhra Distributary ..	5
26		Mandwali Branch	2
27		Mochiwala Distributary	1
28		Nasrat Pur Minor	1

Serial No.	Name of Channel.		Number of breaches.
29	Lyallpur Division, 20	Nasrana Distributary	5
30		Pabbarwala Distributary	2
31		Maduana Distributary	1
32		Waghwala Distributary	1
33		Kot Ahmadyar Branch	1
34		Sarangwala Distributary	3
35		Annah Distributary	1
36		Chiniot Distributary	3
37		Dhudi Minor of Lakhuana Distributary	3
	Khanki Division ..	.. ..	—
		Total ..	100

STATEMENT OF BREACHES ON BRANCHES AND DISTRIBUTARIES OF THE LOWER CHENAB CANAL EAST CIRCLE, IN THE YEAR 1929-30.

Branches.				Distributaries.			
Item No.	Name of Branch.	Breaches in 1929-30.	Remarks.	Item No.	Name of Distributary.	Breaches in 1929-30.	Remarks.
					Gugera Branch, Upper.		
1	Lower Gugera	1		3	Gajjiana Distributary ..	1	
2	Burala Branch extension.	6	This is a new channel recently constructed.	4	Ghordaur Distributary..	1	
					Gugera Branch, Lower.		
				5	Paullani Distributary ..	1	
				6	Rassiana Distributary ..	1	
				7	Tarkhani Distributary ..	5	People have been specially mischievous here.
				8	Mungi Distributary ..	3	
				9	Bhun Distributary ..	1	
				10	Pir Mahal Distributary..	5	New channel.
				11	Rajiana Distributary ..	1	
				12	Khikhi Distributary ..	1	
				13	Shorkot Distributary ..	1	
					Burala Branch.		
				14	Tandlianwala Distributary	1	
				15	Killianwala Distributary	3	Channel going in high filling.
				16	Poolah Minor of Killianwala Distributary.	1	
				17	Bhoja Distributary ..	3	
				18	Sandianwala Minor of Bhoja Distributary.	1	
					Mian Ali Branch.		
				19	Shahkot Distributary ..	1	

DIJKOT DISTRIBUTION OF LOWER CHENAB CANAL.

(*Answer to Question No.* 222, *page* 371 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) *Nil.*

(*b*) Various types—Iron pipes, Masonry Outlets and one Kennedy Gauge Outlet.

(*c*) *Nil.*

LAND CULTIVATION ON THE LOWER CHENAB CANAL.

(*Answer to Question No.* 223, *page* 371 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) 95,839 and 105,529.

(*b*) 8,348 and 8,716 cusecs full supply discharge respectively ;

(*c*) 2,207,991 and 2,846 cusecs full supply discharges in 1920 and 2,184,991 and 2,965 cusecs in 1930, respectively ;

(*d*) 1,689,805 and 1,862,998 acres, respectively :

(*e*) 24,766 acres and 119 cusecs, respectively.

TAWANS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 224, *page* 372 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The preparation of a statement by villages will involve an amount of labour which will not be commensurate with the result achieved. The information for the whole of the Lower Chenab Canal for the last three years is, however, as below :—

(1) Total number of villages	..	..	1,314
(2) Total number of Tawans	..	..	2,307
(3) Total sum levied	..	..	Rs. 2,73,514-8-0

(*b*) 755 cases.

(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) * * * * *

CUTS IN THE CANALS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 231, *page* 380 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) * * * * * * * *

(*b*) for the West Circle—

During 8 years prior to 1922	..	..	..	127
During 8 years subsequent to 1922		..	..	450

(*c*) * * * * * * *

(*d*) * * * * * * *

ARREARS OF GOVERNMENT DUES.

(*Answer to Question No.* 232, *page* 380 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : A statement containing the required information is attached.

District.	Total amount of Government dues (land revenue, *abiana* and cesses) unrealised for Rabi 1930.	Whether there were any arrears for five years preceding Rabi 1930.	Arrears (suspended new) for the five years preceding Rabi 1930.
	Rs.		Rs.
Hissar	10,570	Yes ..	6,71,966
Rohtak	1,474	Yes ..	2,295
Gurgaon	4,83,549	Yes ..	14,72,124
Karnal	10,747	Yes ..	8,138
Ambala	3,532	Yes ..	4,122
Simla	Nil	No ..	Nil.
Kangra	128	No ..	Nil.
Hoshiarpur	348	No ..	Nil.
Jullundur	Nil	No ..	Nil.
Ludhiana	2,369	Yes ..	4,702
Ferozepore	5,748	No ..	Nil.
Lahore	17,062	Yes ..	53,644
Amritsar	5,528	No ..	Nil.
Gurdaspur	1,539	Yes ..	1,139
Sialkot	Nil	Yes ..	47,546
Gujranwala	1,504	No ..	Nil.
Sheikhupura	819	Yes ..	13,328
Gujrat	Nil	No ..	Nil.
Shahpur	58,509	Yes ..	18,849
Jhelum	34	No ..	Nil.
Rawalpindi	Nil	No ..	Nil.
Attock	4,142	No ..	Nil.
Mianwali	5,005	No ..	Nil.
Montgomery	40,000	Yes ..	12,000
Lyallpur	Nil	No ..	Nil.
Jhang	22,594	Yes ..	643
Multan	8,407	Yes ..	1,617
Muzaffargarh	27,257	Yes ..	3,070
Dera Ghazi Khan	21,317	Yes ..	12,512
Total ..	7,32,182	..	23,27,695

Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies, Ambala Division.

(*Answer to Question No.* 239, *page* 385.)

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: (*a*) There is no such official as the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies, Ambala Division. Presumably the reference is to the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Ambala, whose circle comprises the two districts of Ambala and Ludhiana. In this area, which includes a Muslim population of 4.8 lakhs as against a non-Muslim population of 10 lakhs (1921 Census figures) six of the 20 villages in which consolidation work is at present proceeding are predominantly Muhammadan. It is therefore not correct that almost the whole of the consolidation staff in question is working in non-Muslim villages. It may be added that of the 22 officials employed upon consolidation in these two districts 16 are Muhammadans.

(*b*) Inquiries show that the answer is in the negative. Of the societies whose registration has been cancelled by the present Assistant Registrar

59 per cent. were predominently Muhammadan, as against 63 per cent. in the case of his Muhammadan predecessor. As to classification, half the societies placed in D class are non-Muhammadan. It may be added that the Registrar has never come across a case in which classification or cancellation of registration appeared to have been influenced in any way by communal considerations.

District Judge, Hoshiarpur.

(*Answer to Question No.* 254, *page* 393 ante.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) to (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*d*) The question is being investigated.

STATEMENT SHOWING DETAIL OF VISITS TO KANGRA DISTRICT FROM 1st JANUARY 1929 TO 31st JANUARY 1931, BY THE DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, HOSHIARPUR.

Serial No.	Dates of visit.		Staff which accompanied the District and Sessions Judge.	Amount of travelling allowance.		Purpose of each visit.
	From	To		For District Judge.	For Staff.	
				Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1	13-3-29	26-3-29	Reader, Stenographer, Ahlmad and two orderlies (to Dharmsala).	253 1 0	209 6 0	Inspection of courts at Nadaun and trial of Sessions cases and Civil and Criminal appeals at Dharamsala.
			Clerk of Court and office peon (only to Nadaun).	..	75 7 0	
2	9-5-29	15-5-29	Reader, Stenographer, Ahlmad and two orderlies.	181 15 0	178 3 0	Trial of Civil and Criminal appeals and Sessions Cases at Dharamsala.
3	11-6-29	23-6-29	Ditto	244 7 0	199 11 0	Ditto. and inspection of Courts at Nurpur.
4	7-7-29	28-7-29	Ditto	387 7 0	330 12 0	Trial of Sessions Cases, etc., and inspection of Courts at Kangra.
5	14-8-29	8-10-29	Ditto	116 15 0	268 9 0	Trial of Civil and Criminal appeals and Sessions Cases at Dharamsala.
6	15-12-29	25-12-29	Ditto	257 11 0	203 15 0	Ditto.
7	2-3-30	15-3-30	Ditto	253 1 0	141 2 0	Ditto and inspection of Courts at Dehra.
8	6-4-30	18-4-30	Ditto	232 8 0	211 2 0	Trial of Civil and Criminal appeals.
9	4-5-30	15-5-30	Ditto	241 15 0	216 8 0	Ditto.
10	31-5-30	22-6-30	Ditto (To Dharamsala only). The Ahlmad did not go to Kulu and only one orderly went.	507 12 0	413 14 0	Inspection of Courts at Kulu and trial of Civil and Criminal appeals and Sessions Cases at Dharamsala.
11	29-6-30	20-7-30	Reader, Stenographer, Ahlmad and two orderlies.	399 9 0	308 0 0	Inspection at Kangra and trial of Civil and Criminal appeals at Dharamsala.
12	1-8-30	15-9-30	Ditto	120 11 0	140 3 0	Trial of Civil and Criminal appeals with certain urgent papers.
	6-8-30	12-8-30	Clerk of Court and office peon.	..	96 10 0	
13	25-10-30	1-11-30	Reader, Stenographer, Ahlmad and two orderlies.	180 1 0	176 4 0	Trial of Sessions Cases.
			Total ..	3,377 1 0	3,169 10 0	

SHAIKH RAHMAT ILLAHI, MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, RUPAR.

(*Answer to Question No.* 279, *page* 443 ante.)

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes. Reply to the latter part is in the negative.

(*g*) (*i*) Cases which are still pending are as follows :—

(1) Municipal Committee, Rupar *versus* Shaikh Ahsan Illahi (brother of Shaikh Rahmat Illahi) under section 78 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

(2) Municipal Committee *versus* Shaikh Rahmat Illahi, Municipal Commissioner, Rupar, under sections 73, 76 and 78 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

(3) Municipal Committee, Rupar, *versus* Shaikh Rahmat Illahi, Municipal Commissioner, Rupar, under section 78 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

(4) Municipal Committee, Rupar, *versus* Shaikh Rahmat Illahi, Municipal Commissioner, Rupar, under section 81 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

(5) Municipal Committee, Rupar, *versus* Shaikh Rahmat Illahi, Municipal Commissioner, Rupar, under section 81 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

I cannot say what is the reason of delay in disposal. It is not possible to cross-examine magistrates about cases in their courts.

(*ii*) The honourable member should be aware that as, according to himself, cases against the gentleman in question are pending, he cannot expect answers to these questions at this stage.

READERS AND CLERKS IN COURTS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 289, *page* 447 ante.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : A statement is laid on the table.

STATEMENT.

District and Sessions Judges.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Sikhs.
District and Sessions Judges.			
Clerks of Courts	11	10	..
Readers	12	8	1
Senior Sub-Judges.			
Clerks of Courts	9	18	1
Readers	15	8	5

RAIH TRACT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 291, *page* 448 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Sarsuti drain was completed in 1928.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A statement showing the area in acres formerly irrigated by spills of torrents is enclosed. The assessment of irrigation on Sarsuti drain was taken over by the Rural Sanitary and Improvement Board from Kharif 1930.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Government extended a minor of Sarsuti canal in 1929 for 10 miles to irrigate the area south of Sarsuti drain and also constructed in the same year a minor called Para minor of the drain and taking off from it to irrigate the area north of the drain. A bund was erected in 1928 at the tail of the drain. All water is being utilized for purposes of irrigation and water is not allowed to be drained off. Government are also considering proposals to train Tangri and Umla torrents which will increase supplies of the drain. Irrigation is now being done under the control of the Rural Sanitary and Improvement Board and there is every prospect of an increase of irrigation from the drain.

STATEMENT SHOWING AREA IN ACRES OF THE RAIH TRACT FORMERLY IRRIGATED BY SPILLS OF TORRENTS.

Year.	*Total irrigated area (in acres).*
1918-19	2,667
1919-20	6,711
1920-21	5,278
1921-22	8,139
1922-23	8,023
1923-24	3,749
1924-25	10,743
1925-26	2,264
1926-27	2,371
1927-28	1,338
1928-29	725
1929-30	194
1930-31	3,168

MUHAMMADANS IN LOWER CHENAB CANAL ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 332, *page* 552 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan :

* * * * * * * *

(*e*) Yes, with one doubtful exception regarding which further enquiries are being made.

* * * * * * * *

Leave to teachers in the Rawalpindi Division.

(*Answer to Question No.* 413, *page* 615 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : None, so far as records are available.

The Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi Division.

(*Answer to Question No.* 414, *page* 615 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : Twenty-five original circulars have been issued by the present Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi Division, since the burning of his office in November, 1929. Information for the period before that is not available.

Strikes and disturbances in schools in the Rawalpindi division.

(*Answer to Question No.* 418, *page* 617 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Four.

(*b*) As follows :—

(*i*) In one case there was friction between the headmaster and the teachers.

(*ii*) In the second case partly because a teacher beat a boy.

(*iii*) In the third case because of a scuffle that took place between a teacher and an outsider.

(*iv*) Insolent behaviour of students towards a teacher.

(*c*) Certain members of the staff were transferred and certain students expelled.

Teachers in the Gujrat and Rawalpindi districts.

(*Answer to Question No.* 419, *page* 617 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : A statement of the information desired is laid on the table.

Year.	District.	English teachers.		Vernacular teachers.	
		Hindu.	Sikh.	Hindu.	Sikh.
1929 ..	Rawalpindi ..	..	..	24	53
1930 ..	Do. ..	..	..	39	44
1929 ..	Gujrat ..	1 (Transferred from another district).	..	20	10
1930 ..	Do. ..	1 (Offg. appointment in a leave vacancy).	..	19	12

DISTRICT BOARD, RAWALPINDI.

(*Answer to Question No.* 422, *page* 618 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. The officers were on tour, and it is reported that the rest house at Murree was not available.

(*c*) No.

SCIENCE BOOKS WRITTEN BY THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

(*Answer to Question No.* 424, *page* 619 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : The following District Boards purchased the number of copies of Lala Ratan Lal's "Qudrat-ke khel" noted against each :—

Names of District Boards.	*Number of copies purchased.*
Rawalpindi	Nil.
Shahpur	25 copies (all the three parts).
Gujrat	21 copies (all the three parts).
Mianwali	4 copies (all the three parts).
Jhelum	12 copies of part II only.
Attock	12 copies of part I and 3 copies each of parts II and III.

TEACHERS OR CLERKS IN THE RAWALPINDI DIVISION.

(*Answer to Question No.* 425, *page* 619 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) The recommendations of the Inspector are confidential.

(*b*) *Name of District.*	*Hindus.*	*Muhammadans.*	*Sikhs.*
Jhelum	1	1	..
Rawalpindi ..	2	2	..
Total ..	3	3	..

HEADMASTER, BHALWAL AND BHAGTANWALA.

(*Answer to Question No.* 427, *page* 619 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) to (*e*) Yes.

(*f*) He has filed the papers.

PURCHASE OF SCIENCE APPARATUS FOR DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOLS, RAWALPINDI.

(*Answer to Question No.* 431, *page* 621 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) A sum of Rs. 2 573-8-0 was spent by the District Board ;

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The District Board in a formal resolution requested the Chairman to place the order where he thought suitable. The tender accepted was for Rs. 138-0-6 whereas a tender was received for the sum of Rs. 135-4-0. It is understood that in exercising his discretion the Chairman, having regard to the very small difference in the tender preferred to deal with the firm which had previously given satisfaction to the District Board, rather than risk placing an order with a firm, the capacity of which was unknown in Rawalpindi.

INDER SINGH, SENIOR VERNACULAR TEACHER.

(*Answer to Question No.* 432, *page* 622 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon: (*a*) and (*b*) The teacher in question was re-appointed to the District Board service on the ground that he had not been dismissed in accordance with the rules.

(*c*) His pay was raised by the District Board for the same reason and on the ground that other Senior Vernacular teachers of his standing were drawing the higher rate of pay.

(*d*) The action taken was not contrary to rule.

HEADMASTERS OF DISTRICT BOARD ANGLO-VERNACULAR MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN THE RAWALPINDI DISTRICT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 433, *page* 622 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon:

(*a*) Hindu	.. 1	Muslims	.. 3	Sikh	.. *Nil.*
(*b*) Hindus	.. 3	Muslims	.. 2	Sikh	.. *Nil.*
(*c*) Hindus	.. 5	Muslim	.. *Nil.*	Sikhs	.. *Nil.*

ACCOUNTS OF THE PURCHASES MADE FOR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, RUPAR.

(*Answer to Question No.* 449, *page* 633 ante.)

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The final report of the auditors has not been received by Government and it is considered that no useful purpose would be served by laying copies of the documents in question on the table.

(*c*) Commissioner has however been asked to report.

SELLING OF LAND BY THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, REWARI.

(*Answer to Question No.* 503, *page* 720 ante.)

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Does not arise.

CANDIDATES IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF SHAHPUR AND JHANG DISTRICTS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 517, *page* 768 ante.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: A statement giving the required information is enclosed.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS ACCEPTED CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF JHANG AND SHAHPUR DISTRICTS DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Muslims.					Non-Muslims.				
	Paid.	Unpaid.	Process-servers, Shahpur.	Process-servers, Jhang.	Total.	Paid.	Unpaid.	Process-servers, Shahpur.	Process-servers, Jhang.	Total.
1926 ..	2	4	26	..	..	2	10	26	..	..
1927 ..	2	3	13	..	..	2	17	23	..	..
1928 ..	2	8	18	..	..	2	24	26	..	..
1929 ..	2	5	21	..	..	2	23	9	..	..
1930 ..	2	3	21	..	..	2	18	8	..	..
Total ..	10	23	99	17	149	10	92	92	42	236

2nd year student of the Government College, Jhang.

(*Answer to Question No.* 529, *page* 775 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) The student in question was required to withdraw his name.

(*b*) Yes. For six months.

(*c*) The punishments were not unequal, since the compulsory withdrawal of the name from the college rolls involved the loss of at least two years to the student.

Sum of money paid to the Principal of the Government College, Jhang.

(*Answer to Question No.* 530, *page* 775 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) and (*c*) Rs. 75 per mensem ;

(*b*) A member of the college staff is reported to have been occupying a portion of the principal's house free of rent ;

(*d*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

Government College, Jhang.

(*Answer to Question No.* 531, *page* 776 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon :

	Hindus.	*Muslims.*	*Sikhs.*
(*a*)	124	59	14
(*b*)	37	..	..
(*c*)	197	50	11
(*d*)	44	..	..

(*e*) The proportion of agriculturists has been slightly improved.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, JHANG.

(*Answer to Question No.* 532, *page* 776 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) 29 Hindus, 2 Sikhs and 5 Muslims.

(*b*) 15 Hindus, 2 Sikhs and 3 Muslims.

(*c*) 5 Muslims sought admission, two of whom failed to pass the test.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, JHANG.

(*Answer to Question No.* 533, *page* 776 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) The number of students communitywise enjoying fee concessions during 1929-30 and 1930-31 varied from term to term as the grant of these concessions was revised occasionally as a result of the house examination held during the term, on the average the number communitywise was as follows :—

	1929-30.	1930-31.
Hindus and Sikhs ..	17	21
Muslims	12	10

(*b*) Yes.

ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

IRRIGATION FACILITIES TO KALANAUR, ROHTAK DISTRICT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 9, *page* 23 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) * * * * * *

(*d*)

Name of crop.	*Cultivated area of the whole village.*	*Irrigated area.*	*Percentage.*
			Per cent.
Rabi 1929-30 ..	1,926	1,816	94
Kharif 1930 ..	8,665	2,129	25

(*e*), (*f*) and (*g*) * * * * * *

MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR.

(*Answer to Question No.* 21, *page* 82 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (1) The total strength of the teaching staff consists of 1 Principal who is a Hindu, 7 Lecturers of whom 5 are Hindus, 1 Sikh and 1 Muhammadan, and 11 Demonstrators of whom 4 are Hindus, 3 Muhammadans, 3 Sikhs and 1 Christian.

(*ii*) Major Amir Chand, I.M.S., has been the permanent Principal of the School since April 1926. Khan Bahadur Dr. Mir Hidayat Ullah, P.C.M.S., the Senior Lecturer, has always officiated for him whenever he has proceeded on leave, except once when Captain R. N. Bhandari, I.M.S., officiated from the 7th November 1927 to the 16th June 1928.

(*iii*) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS APPEARED AND PASSED DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Total number of Muslims appeared.					Total number of Muslims passed.					Total number of Hindus appeared.					Total number of Hindus passed.				
	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	Total.	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	Total.	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	Total.	1st year	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	Total.
In April 1926 ..	27	29	28	24	108	26	18	20	14	78	26	36	35	33	130	24	31	29	19	103
In September 1926	1	..	1	2	4	1	..	1	1	3	..	1	1	3	5	..	1	1	2	4
In April 1927 ..	38	39	25	25	127	31	25	21	15	92	32	33	38	41	144	31	25	31	28	115
In September 1927	..	7	5	13	25	..	3	4	8	15	..	5	5	14	24	..	2	5	12	19
In April 1928 ..	31	37	28	6	102	28	28	22	2	80	28	39	29	2	98	27	33	27	1	88
In September 1928	2	12	5	28	47	..	4	4	19	27	4	..	1	34	39	4	..	1	31	36
In April 1929 ..	29	20	30	9	88	27	14	18	7	66	27	32	33	6	98	26	24	30	3	83
In September 1929	6	12	13	28	59	6	8	11	16	41	..	8	2	29	39	..	6	2	20	28
In April 1930 ..	19	29	17	11	76	18	18	10	7	53	27	33	31	10	101	27	24	28	8	87
In September 1930	7	21	14	34	76	7	13	11	16	47	3	9	2	34	48	3	7	1	28	39

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS APPEARED AND PASSED DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS—CONCLUDED.

Year.	Total number of Sikhs appeared.					Total number of Sikhs passed.					Total number of Christians appeared.					Total number of Christians passed.				
	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	Total.	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	Total.	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	Total.	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.	4th year.	Total.
In April 1926 ..	17	20	20	22	79	16	16	17	13	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
In September 1926	..	1	5	2	8	..	1	4	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
In April 1927 ..	17	20	17	28	82	17	13	13	14	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
In September 1927	1	2	3	14	20	1	2	3	9	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
In April 1928 ..	18	21	15	7	61	18	16	13	5	52	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1
In September 1928	..	2	2	18	22	..	2	1	15	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
In April 1929 ..	15	22	19	3	59	15	19	17	3	54	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1
In September 1929	..	4	1	14	19	..	2	1	5	8	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
In April 1930 ..	18	17	19	7	61	18	14	19	7	58	..	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1
In September 1930	..	4	3	17	24	..	3	3	13	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF STUDENTS, ARRANGED IN COMMUNAL GROUPS, AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, AMRITSAR, SINCE THE YEAR 1926.

Year.	F. A. or F.Sc.				Matriculates.																							
					Over 600 marks.				*551—600 marks.*				*501—550 marks.*				*451—500 marks.*				*400—450 marks.*				*Below 400.*			
	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Christians.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Christians.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Christians.	Muslim.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Christians.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Christians.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Christians.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Christians.
1926	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	7	5	20	..	13	9	1	..	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
1927	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	13	..	11	10	12	..	5	1	1	1	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1928	..	2	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	3	6	..	9	8	16	..	8	3	..	..	9	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
1	1	..	7	..	..	2	..	..	3	5	7	..	11	10	11	..	10	2	2	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
.. .. ..	..	2	12	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	9	..	4	4	6	..	7	5	1	..	10	..	..	..	2	..	..	..

N. B.—Compounders and nominees of outside administrations who are not elected by the school authorities are not included.

LICENSE FOR ARMS AND AMMUNITION, MULTAN DISTRICT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 23, *page* 83 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) The Additional District Magistrate.

(*b*) and (*c*) Twelve new licenses were granted. It is not the practice of Government to supply names.

(*c*) Yes. One of the licensees is a nephew of the Additional District Magistrate who was then acting as Deputy Commissioner. He is a Guard on the Railway.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGES AND THEIR TEACHING STAFF.

(*Answer to Question No.* 33, page 146 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : A statement showing the requisite information is laid on the table.

Serial No.	Name of institution.	Average number of working days in the year.	Total amount of salaries paid to the staff annually.	Average number of periods which every member of the teaching staff (excluding oriental teachers) has to teach in a week.	The duration of a teaching period.	REMARKS.
			Rs. A. P.		Minutes	
1	Government College, Lahore	205	2,64,470 0 0	*22	45	*Excluding research work.
2	Government Intermediate College, Lyallpur.	211	63,225 14 0	23	45	
3	Government Intermediate College, Gujrat.	215	†36,068 7 0	22	40	†Pay of Physical Training Supervisor not taken into account.
4	Government Intermediate College, Rohtak.	202	49,870 0 0	18.5	40	

HIGH COURT JUDGES AND DISPOSAL OF CASES.

(*Answer to Question No.* 36, *page* 147 ante.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) There were 9 High Court Judges (of all classes) in 1920 and 16 in 1930.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

Number of cases pending in High Court on—

			13st January 1920.	*31st January 1931.*
Murder References	..	..	29	42
Criminal Appeals ..	..	..	234	194
Criminal Revisions	..	..	297	132
Criminal original Trials	..	..	1	3
Criminal Miscellaneous	..	..	16	27
First Appeals ..	..	..	621	1,619
Second Appeals ..	..	..	1,554	1,243
Letters Patent Appeals	..	..	25	168
Miscellaneous Appeals	..	..	166	122
Civil Revisions ..	..	..	291	104
Civil Original Cases	..	..	..	3
Matrimonial Original	..	..	5	6
Matrimonial References	..	..	1	11
Civil References ..	..	..	5	10
Civil Miscellaneous	..	..	32	142
Probates ..	..	..	4	1
	Total	..	3,281	3,827

Number of cases disposed of by the High Court during the year 1920 and 1929.

			1920.	*1929.*
Murder References..	..	..	110	237
Criminal Appeals ..	..	..	851	1,250
Criminal Revisions	..	..	1,850	1,891
Criminal Original ..	..	..	1	2
Criminal Miscellaneous	..	..	133	258
First Appeals ..	..	..	135	272
Second Appeals ..	..	..	2,100	2,043
Letters Patent Appeals	..	..	167	165
Miscellaneous Appeals	..	..	349	709
Civil Revisions ..	..	..	942	977
Civil References ..	..	..	7	26
Civil Original ..	..	..	5	12
Civil Miscellaneous	..	..	592	726
Matrimonial Original	..	..	12	16
Probate ..	..	..	28	13
Matrimonial References	..	..	7	11
	Total	..	7,289	8,608

ROAD FROM LAHORE TO MOGA *viâ* HARRIKE.

(*Answer to Question No.* 51, *page* 587 ante.)

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: (*a*) Yes, but the portion of the road leading to Harrike ferry has not yet been taken over by the Public Works Department.

(*b*) *Section* (1)—Lahore Cantonment to Bhikiwind on 9th September 1926.

Section (2)—Bhikiwind to Harrike town—5th June 1928.

Section (3)—Road in Ferozepore District down to Moga—December 1927.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of (*a*) above.

(*d*) The condition of this portion is not satisfactory and the attention of the District Board is being invited to this.

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL AREAS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 58, *page* 590 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement containing the information called for is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NAMES OF WORKS (WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME) FOR WHICH RURAL SANITARY AND IMPROVEMENT BOARD, PUNJAB, SANCTIONED GRANTS-IN-AID.

Name of work.	Names of District.	Estimated cost.	Grants-in aid.	Percentage of whole cost.	REMARKS.
FINANCIAL YEAR 1928-29.		Rs.	Rs.	%	
1. Improvement of Jai Nurewala village in Khushab Tehsil.	Shahpur ..	9,300	6,975	75	Balance by public contribution.
2. Improving a well at Narhun village in Hamirpur Tehsil.	Kangra ..	1,618	609	50	Ditto.
3. Bet Illaqa water-supply scheme ..	Hoshiarpur	2,100	2,100	Cent. %	
4. Water-supply scheme in Suktri and Kalewal villages.	Ambala ..	5,270	3,953	75	Balance by public contribution.
5. Trial Borings in Kutabpur and Dewal villages of Kaithal Tahsil.	Karnal ..	1,200	900	75	Ditto.
6. Water-supply scheme in Gul Bahar Kalan, Gul Behar Khurd, Bewrayana and Kammanwala villages.	Sialkot ..	6,188	3,900	75	Ditto.
7. Digging Catchwater drains for Kheri Madanpur Tank.	Rohtak ..	1,239	929	Cent, 75	Ditto.
8. Survey of springs in the Jhelum and Shahpur districts.	Jhelum and Shahpur.	2,487	2,487	Cent, %	
9. Trial Borings for water-supply to Bhurtana Kerawa and Alakpur villages.	Hissar ..	2,381	2,381	Cent, %	
10. Trial Borings for water-supply in Injra, Busal, Khunds, Bhowal, Ratwalpind, Bakhurwar and Ahmadal villages.	Attock ..	18,181	18,181	Cent, %	
11. Tumman water-supply scheme ..	Attock ..	77,671	38,836*	Cent, %	*1st instalment.
12. Trial Borings in Lohsinghani, Sukarana and Bhankpur villages.	Gurgaon ..	6,591	6,591	Cent, %	
13. Trial Borings for water-supply of Chhidru village.	Mianwali ..	4,988	3,066	75	Balance by public contribution.
14. Water-supply in Chak No. 115-G. B., Jaranwala Tahsil.	Lyallpur ..	5,147	2,547	50	Ditto.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NAMES OF WORKS (WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME) FOR WHICH RURAL SANITARY AND IMPROVEMENT BOARD, PUNJAB, SANCTIONED GRANTS-IN-AID—CONCLUDED.

Name of work.	Names of Districts.	Estimated cost.	Grants-in aid.	Percentage of whole cost.	REMARKS.
FINANCIAL YEAR 1929-30.		Rs.	Rs.		
1. Water-supply scheme, Gopal Mochan Fair Ground.	Ambala ..	6,090	*5,094	Cent. %	*1st instament.
2. Tumman water-supply scheme ..	Attock ..	78,894	†38,835	Cent. %	†2nd instalment.
3. Naugni water-supply scheme ..	Mianwali ..	4,523	4,523	Cent. %	
4. Kalri water-supply scheme ..	Mianwali ..	9,721	9,721	Cent. %	
5. Water-supply scheme (trial boring) of Qutabpur and Dhewal in Kaithal Tahsil.	Karnal ..	4,048	‡2,848	..	‡2nd instalment.
6. Fee for preparation of water-supply scheme in villages of Mohra Sheikhan and Chak Bhawani in Chakwal Tahsil.	Jhelum ..	112	112	Cent. %	
7. Fee for preparation of water-sup-supply scheme of Khaur and Ahmadal villages.	Attock ..	778	778	Cent. %	
8. Construction of Baoli at Nagni Bahdwan, Tahsil Nurpur.	Kangra ..	569	190	33½	Balance by public contribution.
9. Construction of 7" Diameter well in village Dalyain.	Ambala ..	1,680	1,260	75	Ditto.
10. Water-supply scheme in Gul Bahar Kalan and Gul Bahar Khurd and Kammanwala villages.	Sialkot ..	988	741	75	Ditto.
11. Matore Trial Boring in Rawalpindi District.	Rawalpindi..	5,098	5,098	Cent. %	
12. Ghundi water-supply scheme ..	Mainwali ..	3,937	3,937	Cent. %	
FINANCIAL YEAR 1930-31.					
1. Providing a hand pump and tube well in village Ganganpur.	Ambala ..	1,678	1,259	75	Balance by public contribution;
2. Sinking a well at Kalwali, Tahsil Kharar.	Do. ..	6,580	4,935	75	Ditto.
3. Sinking a Corrugated sheet Iron well in the existing percolation well at Jatheri and converting into a tube-well.	Do. ..	1,236	927	75	Ditto.
4. Improvement of water-supply at Gopal Mochan.	Do. ..	6,090	§996	Cent. %	§2nd instalment.

DISTRICT BOARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 60, *page* 590 ante.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) No, but in the event of a school being closed the grant will be reduced in proportion ;

(*b*) Does not arise.

ROAD FROM AJJO TO BIR, TEHSIL PALAMPUR, DISTRICT KANGRA.

(*Answer to Question No.* 70, *page* 651 ante.)

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : (*a*) The road is maintained partly by the District Board of Kangra and partly by the Mandi State.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Negotiations to that end are going on with Mandi State.

JAMSHED KHAN, RECORD-KEEPER, BRITISH CIRCLE, SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 73, *page* 652 ante.)

The Honourable Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : (*a*) 2nd July 1928.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) Government does not consider it to be in the public interest to furnish the information.

(*f*) Yes on the orders of the Superintending Engineer which on a representation from the Clerk were subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the Chief Engineer. The Superintending Engineer did not consider it to be in the public interest to retain the services of the Clerk any longer and he was given the usual month's notice in accordance with the terms of the agreement on which he was engaged.

NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT BOARDS.

(*Answer to Question No.* 81, *page* 657 ante.)

The Honourable Dr. Gokul Chand Narang : The honourable member is referred to the answer given to starred Council question No. 394.*

MR. FARMER, A CLERK IN THE SECRETARIAT.

(*Answer to Question No.* 87, *page* 781 ante.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There are at present three clerks in the grade of Rs. 150—200, but as none of them were considered qualified for substantive promotion to the rank of Head Assistant an outsider was brought in.

(*c*) As the vacancy was only for a month this arrangement was made; otherwise an outsider would have been drafted in order to strengthen the clerical staff.

(*d*) He has higher educational qualifications than any of the three clerks referred to in (*b*) above. The main reason for his selection was his superior power of supervision and control.

(*e*) Communal considerations are not taken into account in making these appointments.

(*f*) Two.

(*g*) No.

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* Page 584 *ante*.

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